

A New Era in public health / **Stolen Words** Plagiarism fight goes digital / **Up Against Google** A better way to search the Net?
Mark Osbaldeston The Toronto that could have been / **Our Thanks to Donors** / **Forward Thinking** U of T's next 20 years

UofT Magazine

WINTER 2009



Ms. Universe
Astronaut Julie Payette
prepares for her second
mission to space



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Can finding your own way be a team effort?

Affinity Partnerships

Affinity Programs offer a broad range of products and services to alumni, staff, faculty and students. There are more than 80,000 individuals currently participating in these programs that generate revenue to support alumni and student activities at the University of Toronto. Mentorship programs are one important example of the kind of initiatives supported through affinity revenues.



WELLINGTON WEST

CLEAR SIGHT INVESTMENT PROGRAM

www.affinity.utoronto.ca

“Dario was very welcoming and very open. He told me I could contact him anytime and whenever we spoke, nothing was off the table. He gave me advice on how to deal with stress, the importance of working hard and being humble and the virtues of patience. He taught me to focus on the big picture, to have clear goals and to never give up. Finding your way in the world can be difficult, especially when you’re starting out. I am grateful to Dario for taking the time to talk to me. It definitely helped me get on the right path.”

Phoebe Cassamajor (BA 2007) lives in Toronto and works in the financial services sector. She participated in U of T Mississauga’s mentorship program during the final year of her studies.

“I started mentoring students because I really wished that sort of thing had been around when I was a student. To hear the experiences of another person, to get the encouragement from someone rather than a friend or family member, would have made a world of difference to me. By sharing my own experiences, I hope to instill confidence in students and help prepare them for the ups and downs of life after graduation.”

Dario Di Censo (BComm 1988) is president of Dominion Group Inc., an automotive parts company in Mississauga, and president of the U of T Mississauga Alumni Association. During the year he volunteers with the Alumni Mentorship Program, where he meets with students to discuss their career interests and aspirations.



Winter 2009



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by James FitzGerald

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by Zoe Cormier

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Departments

“What we really need to do is act on a societal level”

Geography professor Miriam Diamond, p. 28



Mark Osbaldeston conjures a Toronto that could have been



A U of T researcher has engineered tissue patches that could help heart attack patients make a full recovery



Towards 2030 examines the University of Toronto's future from many angles

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You've always dreamt of a Steinway.

You've earned it. You've waited your whole life to own the very best, to enjoy the utmost in refinement, to appreciate a treasure of enduring beauty and exceptional investment. But what if, while you were waiting for that perfect moment, things changed? Just as Henry Steinway did in 1853, more than 100 years later Paolo Fazioli was also dreaming big. In 1978 he envisioned a piano that would be so unique, so rare, so meticulously crafted that the few built each year would stand above all the rest; a piano with so much responsiveness and tone, so majestic and colourful, that performance standards would forever be changed. In fact, a piano so desirable that legendary pianists the world over have stopped choosing their instruments solely on the basis of convenience. So once again thousands of performing artists, concert halls, pianists and people just like you are dreaming of a legendary instrument with power, grace, refinement and investment potential....but in this century, and in this dream, the name is FAZIOLI. **Call 905 829 2020 ext 255 to reserve your spot at the next Fazioli Information Session.**



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Write to us! We want to know what you think. Send e-mails to uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca or mail to *U of T Magazine*, 21 King's College Circle, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3J3. Letters to the editor may be edited for clarity and length.



“I just received your redesigned autumn issue: loved it, loved it, loved it.”

– *Don Palkowski* TORONTO

JUMP's Limited Appeal

As a teacher, I was disappointed that “Fear of Numbers” (Autumn 2008) promoted John Mighton’s program, JUMP, to the exclusion of all others. I don’t believe that JUMP is the solution to all of our problems, and I agree with the Toronto District School Board’s decision, based on the research it conducted, to steer clear of Mighton’s methods.

Teachers must approach a subject in different ways to appeal to different learning styles. For example, to review a Grade 1 lesson on numbers up to 10, we did a JUMP-style drill of printing each number and representing it with a drawing. We worked co-operatively to sort numbers and represent them with tokens. We played a silent game in which the kids were given cards with dots and had to find a classmate holding a card with the same number of dots. (This illustrated that the same number can be represented in different ways.)

It’s too bad that Cynthia Macdonald didn’t interview any teachers. JUMP is one teaching tool, but I can assure you

that it would not appeal to children with kinesthesia or ADHD.

– *Susan O’Leary* BEd 2004
TORONTO

Ample Evidence

R. F. Smith asks for scientific evidence on global warming (Letters, Autumn 2008). Perhaps he would find that the fourth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, its previous three reports and the thousands of pages of supporting documents describing research by hundreds of scientists around the globe would fill this gap for him. Most of this material is accessible on the Internet.

Perhaps in exchange he would advise where I can find scientific support for his assertion that “the whole case for global warming is based on a hypothesis.”

– *Bernard Etkin* BAsc 1941, MASc 1945
TORONTO

Master of the Macabre

I was delighted that you devoted a feature in the autumn issue to the superb

literary work of Canadian novelist Andrew Pyper (“Death Becomes Him”). I am constantly amazed by how little attention the media pays to contemporary Canadian novelists who actually know how to write an entertaining story. I have read all four of Mr. Pyper’s novels, and find his blend of psychological insights, suspense and visceral emotions both absorbing and moving. His latest book, *The Killing Circle*, grabbed me from the first page and never let go. And his descriptions of pretentiousness and envy in the literary world were hilarious.

– *John Borovilos* BA 1970 VIC,
BEd 1971 OISE, MEd 1976
TORONTO

A Beautiful Baby

I just received your redesigned autumn issue: loved it, loved it, loved it.

The new sections are easy to follow and make me more interested in reading the entire issue. The generous white space on every page greatly adds to the lightness and uncluttered feel of the magazine. And using the outside back cover as an event notice board makes much better use of what is essentially a public, not-for-profit space. Brilliant idea.

Congratulations to you and Underline Studio for “birthing” a finely formed “child.” You both have every reason to be proud parents.

– *Don Palkowski*
TORONTO

No Small Feat

As someone who has worked for several magazines, in both editorial and graphic

design, I know a redesign is no small thing. Congratulations!

I love the new fonts, and appreciate the switch to a blue and white cover logo. It's good to see the school colours front and centre. The call for alumni to submit content may convince more people to write in.

I also really liked the feature in the Winter 2008 issue about David Shore and how he created the show *House*. I'd like to read more pieces like that. There are probably other alumni in the entertainment industry just waiting to be spotlighted by *U of T Magazine*.

– *Mike Marano* BA 2001 ST. MIKE'S, MIR 2004
TORONTO

Mostly Thumbs Up

More than two dozen readers – alumni, contributors, faculty and staff – e-mailed comments about *U of T Magazine's* new design. Our choice of fonts prompted the

most reaction, mostly positive. A number of readers noted that the new type seemed easier to read. **Frances Chambers** (BA 1963 Woodsworth) of Toronto appreciated the additional white space and clear print, and liked the replacement of the back cover ad with an item pertaining to the university. "Congratulations on a great appearance," she wrote. **Peggy Payne** (BSc 1972 Innis, MEd 1984 OISE) of Peterborough, Ontario, wrote: "I don't understand 'visual style' but I really like the new look. *U of T Magazine* looks better and is easier to read." **Judith McBride** (BSc Phm 1961) of Ottawa and **Rev. David Barrett** (MDiv 1985) of Sussex, New Brunswick, both visually impaired, appreciated the magazine's greater legibility. "I am now actually able to enjoy [it]!" wrote Barrett.

Still, **Sidney Joseph** (BSc 1982 Innis, BAsC 1985) of Thornhill, Ontario, suggested we use larger fonts. **Kristine**

Gravelle-Rystenbil (BA 1992 UTM) of Ottawa called the new layout "more interesting graphically." However, both she and **Shirley Grant** (CTESL 1986 Woodsworth) of Toronto found the back cover, with its white text on a blue background, a problem to read. Grant also recommended including the day of the week beside the date in the Calendar of Events to save her from scrambling for her own calendar to check. **George Mowbray** (MA 1948) of Ottawa didn't like the way the Calendar section was organized, and suggested that, apart from alumni events, everything be listed in order of date.

Corrections

In the autumn issue, letter-writer Mike Szarka's hometown was listed as Ottawa instead of Oshawa; Kenneth Morrison's letter stated that Harold Innis had fought in the Second World War instead of the First. *U of T Magazine* regrets these editing errors.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Nominations open on Friday, January 9, 2009 at 12:00 noon for the position of Chancellor. Nominations must be made in writing and signed by two alumni of the University of Toronto.

Nominations should be sent in confidence to:

The Secretary
College of Electors
Simcoe Hall, Room 106
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A1
416-978-6576

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, February 6, 2009 at 4 p.m.

For further information on the election process for the Chancellor, please visit:
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca>



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

The College of Electors invites nominations for the position of Chancellor of the University of Toronto for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2009.

The present Chancellor, The Honourable David Peterson, is eligible to stand for another term.

The Chancellor is required by statute to be a Canadian citizen.

ROLE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Under the University of Toronto Act, 1971, the Chancellor serves as chair of Convocation, and confers all degrees of the University. In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Chancellor presides at convocation ceremonies, of which there were 29 in 2008. In addition, the Chancellor serves as Chair of the Committee for Honorary Degrees.

The Chancellor is the titular head of the University, and, with the President and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Governing Council, represents the University to the internal and external community. In this role, the Chancellor is an advocate for the vision of the University as it is articulated by the President and endorsed by the Governing Council. He/she plays an essential ambassadorial role in advancing the University's interests within the local, provincial, national and international arenas.

The Chancellor will be a distinguished person with a record of demonstrated excellence in his/her chosen field and in service to the community. Ideally, the Chancellor will be an individual whose reputation and experience will assist the Chair of the Governing Council and the President in "opening doors" both nationally and internationally.

The Chancellor serves as a volunteer, and receives no remuneration.

Forward Thinking

Setting the direction for U of T's next 20 years



A year ago in this column, I reported to alumni that the university was deeply engaged in its first long-term planning exercise since 1987. *Towards 2030* has been a fascinating experience. We consulted broadly with the University of Toronto community and received dozens of submissions. Five outstanding task forces, each chaired by a university governor and whose members included alumni, students, faculty, staff and other governors, considered vital questions about the university's long-term future. An 80-page synthesis report, released this fall, highlights the connections among the task forces' findings and recommendations. The synthesis was then distilled into a brief framework document, which received overwhelming support from Governing Council on October 23. What follows are some key excerpts from the synthesis report.

The University's Context "We are in the middle of an unprecedented graduate expansion that will add about 4,000 new master's and doctoral students. Renewed demographic pressures are anticipated in the Toronto region, generating a wave of perhaps 40,000 new undergraduates, followed after four to six years by as many as 10,000 new graduate students. The University of Toronto remains subject to unrelenting budget pressures, in large part because Ontario trails the other nine provinces – and nearly all U.S. jurisdictions – in per-student funding. Meanwhile, the university is making strenuous efforts to enhance the undergraduate student experience, renew its capital infrastructure, raise its already-high international profile, and augment its capacity for research and scholarship."

U of T's Unique Role in Canada "Today, as we approach our second centennial, the University of Toronto is respected as one of the foremost research-intensive universities in the world... Even as a publicly supported institution with constrained resources, we have been able to rival both the great private universities of the United States and the ancient public universities of Britain in the quantity and quality of our research and scholarship."

Enrolment "...[T]he coming wave of enrolment growth in the Toronto region will start with undergraduates and quickly translate into pressure for expansion of second-entry professional and graduate programs. The University of Toronto can respond by amplifying its distinctive role in the Ontario post-secondary system as the largest provider of these programs. However, the increased demand for undergraduate seats also offers additional opportunities for recruiting outstanding students."

One University, Three Campuses "Our university has consistently championed the need for clearer definitions of roles and mandates for Ontario's post-secondary institutions. The 2030 exercise has generated a broad consensus that it is time for us to take similar steps within our own three-campus system."

Student Recruitment "We are arguably much better known among scholars worldwide than among high school students and their parents in other provinces... [F]ew foci for fundraising will pay greater dividends than generation of larger pools of bursary and scholarship funds to support recruitment of outstanding students. Enhanced student recruitment is therefore an area for attention not by 2030 but immediately."

The Undergraduate Experience "...[T]he university has made a major effort to enhance the undergraduate student experience over the last several years, with new seminar-style courses for entering students, more effective use of information technology and the creation of many new learning communities... Multiple task forces urged acceleration of the current trend to involve undergraduate students in research, highlighting the mentorship that could be provided by growth in the numbers of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Other points of emphasis included: more small class experiences, group projects, more opportunities for students at all levels to live in residence, facilitation of engagement in co-curricular activities and provision of international experiences, including study-abroad programs."

Resources "With 85% of our core operating funds dependent on provincial per-student grants and tuition fees, and with the proportion derived from tuition fees rising, the university and its sister institutions in Ontario have advocated consistently for additional per-student funding as the first and most important component of any provincial plan to enhance the quality of post-secondary education. ...

"[U]nder almost any remotely realistic scenario, the university will need greater flexibility in setting tuition fees if our faculty and staff are to provide a high-quality educational experience over the next two decades....

"[G]rowth of tuition revenues will enable massive expansion of the levels of bursary support for lower-income students who meet the university's entrance requirements. Thus, a greater portion of the fee would be offset on the basis of financial need for a substantial proportion of undergraduates."

Alumni as Role Models "Our alumni's contributions deserve renewed publicity for student recruitment and for the general advancement of the university's reputation. No group better represents the enduring importance and transformative impact of higher education. No group is better equipped to put a face on the institution to which prospective students and their

families can relate. It is therefore essential that we make a concerted effort to profile the accomplishments of our graduates, both in the remote past and along a bright line of excellence that shines through the decades to the present, linking hundreds of thousands of talented individuals in some 160 countries."

As I observed on assuming office in 2005, the University of Toronto matters to Canada and Canadians. It has mattered for 181 years, and it matters today more than ever. It is humbling to recognize that this long-term planning exercise speaks to a time span that is but a small fraction of the life expectancy of our great university. On the other hand, I trust that members of our community can also take pride in the near certainty that the University of Toronto will matter even more a century from now than it does today.

For more information, interested readers can browse the full report online at www.towards2030.utoronto.ca/synth.html. Meanwhile, best wishes for a happy and healthy 2009 - another step towards 2030!

Sincerely,
David Naylor

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ALUMNI MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Are you actively involved with the University? Would you or someone you know like to help shape its future?

Nominations open on Friday, January 9, 2009 for two alumni representatives on the University of Toronto's Governing Council, the senior governing body that oversees the academic, business and student affairs of the University. In total, there are eight alumni governors.

Each position is for a 3-year term, beginning July 1, 2009.

Qualifications:

- Alumnus(a) of the University of Toronto;
- Canadian citizen;
- Not a student or member of the teaching or administrative staff of the University;
- Supportive of the University's mission;
- Active participant in University and/or community groups;
- Willing to learn about the University's governance;
- Willing to make a substantial time commitment to the work of the Governing Council;
- Available to attend regular meetings on campus between September and June.

The membership of the Governing Council should reflect the diversity of the University. Nominations are, therefore, encouraged from a wide variety of individuals.

Nomination forms will be available starting at 12 noon on Friday, January 9, 2009 on the Governing Council website: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca>

or from:

The Secretary
College of Electors
Simcoe Hall, Room 106
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A1
416-978-6576

Nominations close at 4 p.m., Monday, February 23, 2009.


For further information, visit:
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca>



UNIVERSITY OF
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Governors serve as volunteers and receive no remuneration.

Calendar of Events

 **MORE EVENTS!**
Check out the latest campus happenings at www.utoronto.ca

**JANUARY
16-31**



Jerry Springer – The Opera at Hart House Theatre. The high art of opera meets trash TV in the Canadian première of *Jerry Springer – The Opera*. The hit British musical, based on

the witless American talk show, features a panel of adulterers, rednecks and misfits eager to swap their dirty laundry for air time. The devil forces Springer to host an episode in hell, where Adam, Eve and God make appearances. Songs include “Bigger than Oprah Winfrey” and “Talk to the Hand.” Due to coarse language and adult situations, this is recommended for mature audiences only. Directed by Richard Ouzounian and starring Byron Rouse. Tickets \$25 (\$15 for students/seniors). 8 p.m. showings: Fri., Jan. 16 and Sat., Jan. 17; Wed. to Sat., Jan. 21-24; Wed. to Sat., Jan. 28-31. Midnight showing on Sat., Jan. 24. 7 Hart House Circle.

||  For tickets, www.uoftix.ca or (416) 978-8849. For more info, www.harthousetheatre.ca.

ALUMNI

January 16
Sandford Fleming Building

Godiva Week Alumni Suds. The alumni edition of this regular student bar event brings back young Skule alumni to enjoy Godiva Week festivities. 5-8 p.m. Sandford Fleming Atrium. 10 King's College Rd.

January 21
University College

The Human Factor. Graham Lecture by Kim Vincente, founding

director of U of T's Cognitive Engineering Lab. Lecture: 4:30 p.m. in Room 140, UC. Reception will follow in Room 240. 15 King's College Circle. (416) 978-3160

February 13
University College

U.C. Follies Reunion. Reception in Croft Chapter House, 15 King's College Circle. Follies performance at Hart House Theatre, 7 Hart House Circle. To RSVP for the reception and to order Follies tickets, call (416) 978-2968

March 3, New York City

Concert for Alumni. “Great Performers: New York, New Music, New Hall.” The spirit of the New York new music community is captured in original works performed by three ensembles. Performers include Faculty of Music dean Russell Hartenberger. US\$25. 7 p.m. Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Centre, 70 Lincoln Centre. Registration: www.alumni.utoronto.ca or 1-888-738-8876. For more info, contact Teo Salgado at (416) 978-2368 or teo.salgado@utoronto.ca

March 11

University of St. Michael's College Twilight Lenten Retreat. Dinner in the Odette Student Lounge: 5:30 p.m. Retreat in the College Chapel: 7 p.m. For more info and to register: (416) 926-7260 or smc.alumni@utoronto.ca

EXHIBITIONS

To January 25

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

James Carl: Do You Know What presents works by the mid-career Toronto artist. Carl has been reproducing – sometimes even mass-producing – seemingly random objects from the clutter of consumer culture. Recreated in cardboard, Coroplast or stone, Carl's objects represent an evacuated presence – shelved and no longer functional.

February 11 to March 21

Justina M. Barnicke Gallery

Funk: It Ain't Illegal Yet explores funk music, its manifestations in objects, and its role in club and disco cultures and wider cultural scenes. Artists take cues from the models of social engagement envisioned in funk, its music, its dance and its costumes. Opening: Wed., Feb. 11, 5–8 p.m.

For Justina M. Barnicke exhibitions: Mon. to Wed., 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Thurs. to Fri., 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sat. to Sun., 1–5 p.m. 7 Hart House Circle. (416) 978-8398, jmb.gallery@utoronto.ca or www.jmbgallery.ca

January 14 to March 1

Doris McCarthy Gallery,

U of T Scarborough

ImagiNation: New Cultural

Topographies. Works by Canadian artists express some of the complexities of contemporary Canadian

"Envy" is part of the James Carl: Do You Know What exhibition at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery



PHOTO: JAMES CARL

identity – and move beyond cultural identity as defined by ethnicity. Tues. to Fri., 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sun., 12–5 p.m. 1265 Military Trail. (416) 287-7007, dmg@utsc.utoronto.ca or www.utsc.utoronto.ca/dmg

**January 20 to March 14
University of Toronto Art Centre
Exposures: The History of the Lens of the Malcolmson Collection.**

A photography exhibition marking artistic and technological developments throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Works by Henry Fox Talbot, Man Ray, Ian Wallace and more. Tues. to Fri., 12–5 p.m., Sat., 12–4 p.m. 15 King's College Circle. (416) 978-1838 or www.utac.utoronto.ca

**January 29 to May 1
Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
Werner Pfeiffer: Book-Objects & Artist Books.** An exhibition of art created from or using books as the medium. Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 120 St. George St. (416) 978-5285 or www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/exhibitions/current.html

FESTIVALS

**January 29 to 31
Robert Gill Theatre
2009 Festival of Original Theatre. Exquisite Corpses, Bloody Bodies: Murder, Myth, and Representations of Violence on Stage and Screen.** This student-organized festival is produced by the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama to bring together academia and the arts. Conference takes place during the day and is free; prices for evening performances are TBA. Robert Gill Theatre, 214 College St, 3rd floor. Box office: (416) 978-7986. www.gradrdrama.utoronto.ca/newsEvents_1.html

**February 26 to 28
Hart House Theatre
U of T Drama Festival** premières student-written one-act plays. Tickets \$12 (\$10 for students/seniors). 7:30 p.m. For tickets, www.uofttix.ca or (416) 978-8849

MUSIC

**January 20 to 23
Faculty of Music
New Music Festival.** Events include: "New Music Festival Preview" featuring Faculty of Music performers. 12 p.m., Jan. 20, COC Amphitheatre, 145 Queen St. W. "Student Composer Concerts." 7:30 p.m., Jan. 20, 21 and 23, Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park. "Nexus: Back to the Future," a concert of improvisations. 7:30 p.m., Jan. 22, Walter Hall. Free. For all listings, see www.music.utoronto.ca/events

**January 31
MacMillan Theatre
University of Toronto
Symphony Orchestra.** Alain Trudel, conductor. Wagner: *Prelude to Tristan and Isolde*. Student composition competition winner. James MacMillan: *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* (Jamie Drake, solo). Debussy: *Nocturnes* (with University Women's Chorus). \$18 (\$10 students/seniors). 7:30 pm. Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park



**February 2
Walter Hall
Chamber Music Series: Miró Quartet.** U of T debut by the award-winning Miró Quartet. Mendelssohn: *Quartet Op. 44 No. 1*. Kevin Puts: *Credo*. Dvořák: *Quartet*

Op. 96 "American." \$25 (\$15 students/seniors). 7:30 pm. Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park

**February 13
Christ Church Deer Park
Choirs in Concert: Vox Femina.** University Women's Chorus (Robert Cooper, conductor), with the University of Guelph Women's Choir (Marta McCarthy, conductor). \$14 (\$8 students/seniors). 7:30 p.m. Christ Church Deer Park, 1570 Yonge St.

For tickets to music events, phone the box office at (416) 978-3744. For more info, www.music.utoronto.ca

SPORTS

**January 24
Basketball**
Ontario Basketball Association
Minor Basketball Night. U of T vs. York. Minor basketball players from around the GTA, as well as the general public, can enjoy a night of Canadian Interuniversity Sport men and women's basketball. Prizes, contests and more. 8 p.m. Athletic Centre Sports Gym. 55 Harbord St.

**February 14 to 15
Fencing**
Ontario University Athletics **Fencing Championships.** Athletic Centre. 55 Harbord St.

**February 18 to 19
Figure Skating**
Ontario University Athletics **Figure Skating Championships.** Varsity Skating Arena. 299 Bloor St. W.

**March 11 to 14
Swimming**
U of T is hosting the **Short Course Swim Nationals** in partnership with Swim Canada. Competitors in this event are eligible to be selected

to the World University Games. Finals at 6 p.m. each day in the 50-metre pool in the Athletic Centre. 55 Harbord St.

Ticket prices, and some times, for these sporting events are TBA. For updated info, visit www.varsityblues.ca

THEATRE

**January 29 to 31; February 3 to 7
Erindale Studio Theatre,
U of T Mississauga
Bonjour, Là, Bonjour.** Returning from Europe to face his past and future, young Serge must deal with his haridan aunts and sisters to get to the one he loves – and to his father. Warning: adult themes. Tickets \$14 (\$9 for students/seniors). Thurs., Jan. 29 and Tues. to Thurs., Feb. 3-5 at 7:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., Jan. 30 and 31, and Feb. 6 and 7, 8 p.m. Additional 2 p.m. show on Sat., Feb. 7. 3359 Mississauga Rd. N. For tickets, (905) 569-4369, www.theatreerindale.com or boxoffice. utm@utoronto.ca

**February 25 to March 8
Studio Theatre
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Life on Campus



Towards 2030 Planning for U of T's third century

The University of Toronto intends to harness its strengths in advanced research and graduate education over the next 20 years to enhance the student experience and contribute meaningfully to Canada's prosperity, a new report on U of T's future asserts.

The 80-page document, *Towards 2030: A Third Century of Excellence at the University of Toronto*, written by President David

Naylor, draws on 15 months of consultations with the university community on U of T's long-term direction. It sets out strategic priorities in enrolment, the student experience, the three campuses, funding and how the university is governed.

Recognizing U of T's advantage in research and graduate education, *Towards 2030* recommends boosting enrolment in graduate and professional programs and modestly >>>

>> reducing the undergraduate population at the St. George campus. In one proposed scenario, enrolment in graduate and professional programs at the downtown campus would increase by 3,300 to 15,000 (or about 35 per cent of all students) while undergraduate enrolment would decrease by 5,000 to 28,500. The reduction in undergraduate students at the St. George campus would be more than offset by increases at the Scarborough and Mississauga campuses – from about 17,000 undergrads currently to 24,000 by 2030. Graduate enrolment on the two newer campuses would also rise.

The report argues that expanding graduate education follows logically from the university's existing strengths in research, regional demographic forecasts that point to a growing demand for advanced degrees, and global economic trends that favour high-knowledge industries. Naylor suggests that such a plan would boost not only the university's research enterprise, but also its first-entry programs – by giving undergraduates more opportunities to participate in research projects and to be mentored by grad students. At the same time, Naylor says the university will aim to expand the number of first-year “learning communities” – which give new students a chance to take seminar-style courses, meet with tutors and join study groups. As undergrad enrolment at the St. George campus declines, the student-faculty ratio should decrease, creating a better learning environment. To boost its national and global presence, U of T will recruit more international students and more Canadian students from outside the Toronto area.

Although total enrolment across the university is expected to grow modestly over the next two decades, *Towards 2030* advises against establishing a fourth U of T campus. The report advocates preserving the university's tri-campus set-up as a “regional U of T system” and developing the strengths and unique qualities of each site so the “totality of academic activities and opportunities on the three campuses is greater than the sum of their parts.”

U of T has faced considerable funding challenges over the past 20 years, and *Towards 2030* anticipates these will persist. Noting that the inflation-adjusted value of per-student grants in Ontario fell sharply in the early 1990s and has not climbed back to what it was in 1991–92, the report proposes that U of T enlist the help of its extended community, including alumni, to continue lobbying the province for across-the-board funding increases. Ontario's per-student support for higher education currently ranks last among the provinces, sitting at 25 per cent below the average of the nine others. U of T should also be able to set tuition fees – its

Continued on page 21



To Boldly Go U of T's Dunlap Institute will step up the search for worlds beyond our solar system

THE NEW DUNLAP INSTITUTE for Astronomy and Astrophysics is just beginning to take shape in the minds of U of T astronomers, but already it represents a “tremendous opportunity” for the university to stay at the forefront of astronomical research in the decades ahead, says Peter Martin, the department chair. The institute, made possible by the recent sale of the David Dunlap Observatory in Richmond Hill, Ontario, will foster research into the most fundamental questions in astronomy,



PHOTO: STOCKTREK/GETTY IMAGES

including the formation of planetary systems, the structure and evolution of stars and galaxies, and the origin of the universe itself.

Academic work will focus on “signature projects” targeting specific, challenging questions about our cosmic habitat. One potential project will further the search for extrasolar planets – a subject that’s very much in the news these days. Scientists are getting closer to discovering planets outside the solar system that resemble Earth. In September, a team of U of T astronomers made history by unveiling the first-ever photograph of a planet orbiting a sun-like star. Another signature project will likely examine “first light” – the epoch in the early universe when star formation began.

One of the first tasks is to find a director for the institute; the position is now being advertised internationally. Additional

faculty and staff will be brought on board in the years ahead, Martin says, with a push to recruit the brightest young grad students from around the world.

The astronomy field has changed considerably since the David Dunlap Observatory opened in 1935. Breakthroughs today typically require enormous budgets and multinational collaborations. U of T already contributes to many of these projects, including the Gemini telescopes in Hawaii and Chile as well as the James Webb Space Telescope, which will succeed the Hubble Space Telescope.

As the Dunlap Institute takes shape, Martin says that the question that needs answering is: How can U of T make the greatest contribution? The answer, he suggests, will evolve through: “innovative ideas and the hard work of individual researchers.” – *Dan Falk*



New centres for law, archaeology

While the astronomy department prepares to launch the Dunlap Institute, other academic disciplines were opening their own specialized centres this year.

In the spring, U of T’s Faculty of Law established

Canada’s first **Centre for the Legal Profession**. Under the leadership of academic director Lorne Sossin and executive director Jane Kidner, the centre aims to further law students’ understanding of ethics and foster the idea that community leadership and public service are essential to becoming a “good” lawyer.

In September, the law faculty also launched the **David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights**. The centre will articulate Canada’s vision for fundamental human rights to the world and test case litigation on the country’s most important constitutional issues. Law grad David Asper gave \$7.5 million to establish the centre. Cheryl Milne, a former counsel at a Toronto legal-aid clinic for children and youth, is executive director.

The Faculty of Arts and Science’s **Archaeology Centre** connects researchers, students and resources in archaeology from across the university. Three new faculty members in the fields of Andean and Aegean archaeology have joined the 15 currently engaged in research; another two, in Mesopotamian and Chinese archaeology, will join over the next several months.



Designed for Discovery

The University of Toronto Scarborough has officially come of age in scientific research with the opening, this fall, of the **Science Research Building**. The three-storey facility is designed by Toronto's Moriyama + Teshima Architects and situated next to the Highland Creek Ravine. It is the first at U of T Scarborough to be dedicated exclusively to fostering collaborative

research. Scientists work in 16 open-concept labs in the fields of brain science, plant biology and environmental science.

U of T Scarborough Principal Frank Vaccarino says the building's state-of-the-art facilities will make a vital contribution to the intellectual life of the campus and help enrich the undergraduate and graduate experience.

Overheard



The United States did not grow in a vacuum by the power of its ideals: it is not so much a new Europe across the Atlantic as a unique organism engendered by history's 'Big Bang' – the collision of worlds that began in 1492.



Author **Ronald Wright**, reading from his book *What is America? A Short History of the New World Order*, as part of the U of T Bookstore Reading Series, September 4.

Poll | Do you think 100 hours of community service should be required to earn an undergraduate degree from U of T?



27%
Yes



73%
No

Two years ago, Craig Kielburger (BA 2007 Trinity) challenged U of T to become the first post-secondary institution in Canada to require students to perform community service to receive their degree. Kielburger wanted each student to donate 100 hours of service over four years.

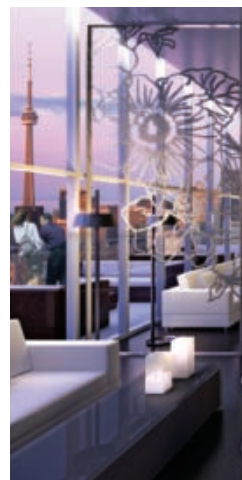
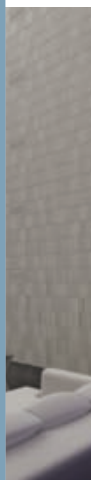
U of T students, however, don't appear to support Kielburger's idea. Even among those surveyed who gave the idea the thumbs-up, nearly one-quarter thought 100 hours was too onerous a requirement. Students do believe in a one-day volunteer commitment, though: more than 500 picked up garbage, served lunch at shelters and assisted community organizations as part of September's Day of Service.

This highly unscientific poll of 100 U of T students was conducted on the St. George campus in mid-September.

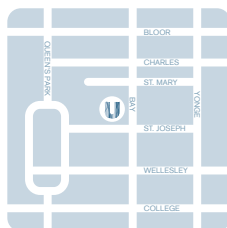
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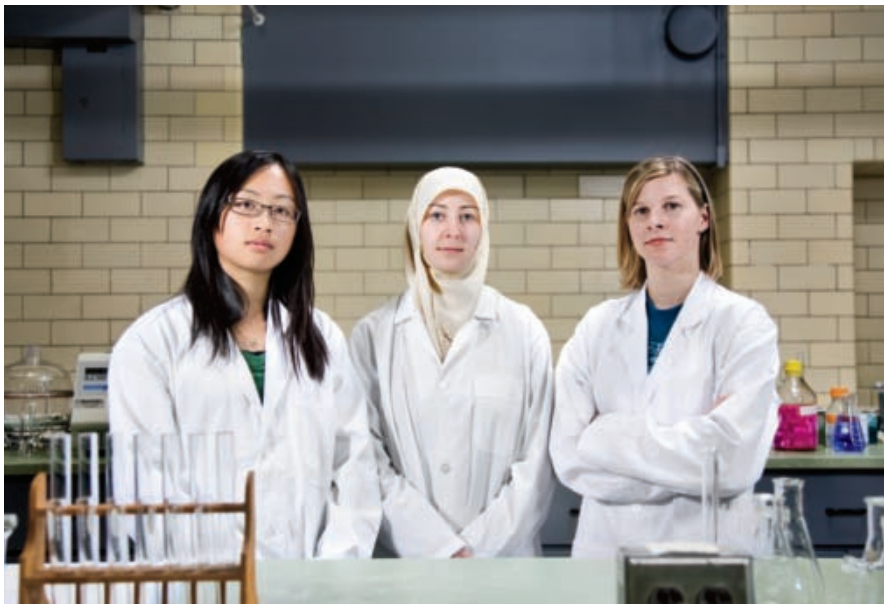
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Women Wanted Engineering faculty hopes mentorship, new image will reverse slide in female enrolment



Female engineering students are more likely to choose environmental and biomedical disciplines because they believe advances in these fields have a direct impact on today's pressing issues

SOMETHING PECULIAR HAPPENED this decade on the long road to gender parity in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. While female students now outnumber men in law and medicine – two other traditionally male-dominated fields – their presence in engineering has waned. After hitting a high of 27 per cent in 2001, the proportion of female engineering students has dropped every year, to just 21 per cent in 2007. This year it rose slightly, to 23 per cent.

Professors and administrators aren't exactly sure what caused the decline, but they do know the phenomenon is not confined to U of T. "[Female enrolment in engineering] seemed to plateau across North America," says Professor Susan McCahan, a mechanical engineer who serves as the faculty's First Year Chair. According to the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology, the proportion of women enrolled in Canadian engineering programs has been declining steadily since 2002, after nearly a decade of slowly increasing numbers.

McCahan suspects the field may have an image problem

– despite efforts to fight the stereotype of engineers as “super-nerds” who work “for companies rather than people and the public good.”

The faculty is attempting to redefine engineering as a helping profession in which technical experts work with communities and tailor their efforts to local needs. “Research has shown that female students are interested in professions that have a positive effect on human life,” says Cristina Amon, the first female dean in the faculty's 135-year history. She notes that certain disciplines – including chemical and environmental engineering as well as biomedical engineering – are popular with female students because advances in these fields have a direct bearing on today's pressing issues, such as the worldwide energy dilemma.

Cultural factors likely play a role in how women perceive engineering. Amon (whose daughter is also an engineer) hails from Uruguay, where the idea of engineering as a woman's profession is more broadly accepted than it is here. This is also true in Russia and China. “The professions that are considered appropriate for women are very deeply rooted in culture,” says McCahan.

Recently, U of T's Faculty of Applied Science embarked on a number of initiatives to attract female students. Mentorship is key, so U of T is hiring more women as professors. “In the last two years, over 50 per cent of our new hires have been female,” says McCahan. The Skule Sisters program sees high school girls corresponding with female engineering students, who help them plan for a career in the field. U of T also participates in the province's yearly GoEngGirl Fair, which gives 12- to 15-year-old girls the opportunity to create machines, such as robotic arms and wind turbines.

Encouraged by this year's increase in female enrolment, Amon and McCahan would like to see women engineers eventually take more positions in the workforce. Today, only about 10 per cent of professional engineers in Canada are women. However, McCahan says engineering can also take students into law, medicine or business. “The skills you get open up wildly diverse career opportunities.” – *Cynthia Macdonald*

|| ☞ Are you a female engineer? Why do you think young women are less likely to choose engineering? Write to us at uoft.magazine@utoronto.ca.

The Bicycle Messenger

Métis law student Joshua Sutherland has something to say to native youth

WHEN ASKED HOW THEY SPENT their summer vacation, many law school students describe 14-hour days in office buildings trying to impress people in expensive suits. But Joshua Sutherland decided to do things differently. The third-year U of T law student cycled across Western Canada, visiting native reserves and promoting post-secondary education.

Sutherland is Métis; he grew up in the Windsor area, but spent his summers visiting extended family on a reserve near Thunder Bay, Ontario. In August he cycled to four reserves in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan to peddle his “if I can do it, you can do it” message. He was motivated by the under-representation of aboriginals in post-secondary institutions in general, and law school in particular, as well as an ambition to bike across a large chunk of the country.

Starting out in Vancouver, he cycled approximately eight hours a day – not easy for someone who hadn’t ridden a bicycle often in the past several years. “It was rough,” he acknowledges. “I had a few violent cramps for the first week and I would wake up almost in tears.” Finding a place to sleep was also rough. Sutherland, 26, camped out in a variety of places, including a provincial park, under a porcupine-infested tree, the floor of an auto mechanic’s garage and an abandoned farmhouse “like something out of a Hitchcock movie.”

The approximately 100 people Sutherland spoke to eagerly absorbed his message. “As soon as I arrived on the reserve



In August, Joshua Sutherland cycled to native reserves in Western Canada to promote higher education

with a bike helmet, goofy little tights and a neat-looking bike, it drew a lot of attention,” he says. Drawing interest to his high-end bicycle and gear was part of Sutherland’s plan to appeal to young people. “I think the kids were attracted to the idea of riding a bike such a great distance. They wanted to hear what I had to say.”

The total cost of the trip (including flights, bike and camping supplies) was roughly \$7,500. He raised \$5,500 from sponsors, including several Toronto law firms and U of T’s Faculty of Law, and paid the other \$2,000 out of pocket.

Sutherland hopes to make the journey an annual sponsored event. But next summer, he’ll start his articling position with the Crown attorney’s office in Thunder Bay, and would like to pass the torch to another law student. “I’d hate to rob someone else of that opportunity,” he says.

– Sarah Treleaven

Ephemera



These silver-wrapped candies are two of the thousands that formed a shiny “carpet of sweetness” in Hart House’s east common room during Nuit Blanche in October. They were part of “*Untitled (Lover Boys)*,” an installation by Cuban-American artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres (1957–1996). His instructions require that 355 pounds of hard mints be arranged in a pile on the floor. Attendants invite viewers to sample the work – to literally take a piece of it. Then they replenish the sweets to maintain the initial 355 pounds, the combined weight of Gonzalez-Torres and his partner, Ross, before they died of AIDS. – Nina Haikara

“If you have one class at 9 a.m. and one at 3 p.m., you need somewhere to go in-between”

—Katherine Morrison (PhD 1979) on the importance of study space



Restoring Robarts \$40-million renovation will boost study space, upgrade technology

U OF T IS GIVING ITS aging “intellectual heart” a jolt, as work begins this winter on a two-year renovation to Robarts Library that will add study space, spruce up the building’s 1970s decor and update it for the wireless Internet age.

The library’s collection has far surpassed what the building was designed to hold, and the stacks have eaten up much of the building’s original study space, says chief librarian Carole Moore. At the same time, she adds, enrolment has surged, placing greater demand than ever on library resources.

As part of the renovation plans, more than half-a-million infrequently used books will be moved to the university’s

storage facility in Downsview, Ontario. The freed-up space will be used to create individual and group study areas with more comfortable seating, better lighting and vastly improved wired and wireless Internet capacity—“much-needed updates,” says Moore.

Ten of the library’s 14 floors and several individual departments will receive their own makeovers. The government documents and map room on the fifth floor will be redesigned into a state-of-the-art geographical information centre, says Moore. Two floors down, the Media Commons will get new screening rooms and more instructional spaces, and reading rooms on the second and third floors will be upgraded with new furniture and lighting.

The changes will occur in two stages. The \$40-million renovation will be followed by a \$35-million addition, which will add five floors of glassed-in study

space on the building’s west side and revamp the St. George Street entrance near Harbord Street. Although the university has funding for most of the renovation, including a \$15-million contribution from the provincial government, it still needs to raise money for the addition.

Russell (MA 1947) and Katherine Morrison (PhD 1979) provided the lead gift for the renovation. The couple says they were motivated by a belief in the enduring importance of university libraries. “This is really a vote of confidence in the students,” says Russell. Katherine, who spent a lot of time in Robarts while completing her PhD in English, says study space is particularly important for commuters. “If you have one class at 9 a.m. and one at 3 p.m., you need somewhere to go in-between,” she says. The Morrises have also supported Morrison Pavilion, the popular addition to the Gerstein Science Information Centre, and Morrison Hall, the University College residence on St. George Street. —Scott Anderson

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Varsity Blues



Building for the Blues Kimel Family Field House gets the go-ahead

TORONTO BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL FANS have a new reason to cheer: U of T has confirmed it will build a 2,000-seat field house as part of the Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport, to be located on Devonshire Place across from Varsity Centre.

The field house got the green light after Ron Kimel

(BA 1966 UC), a former Varsity basketball player, donated the lead gift. Kimel, who sported the blue and white at Hart House gym in the 1960s, hopes the new facility will draw more fans to U of T games and translate into stronger community support for athletics in Ontario.

The Kimel Family Field House, which will encompass the first three floors of the Goldring Centre, will be a critical component of U of T's high performance sport complex. "This will be the best home that Varsity and intramural athletes could hope for," says Bruce Kidd, dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Health. Kidd says the new facility will strengthen U of T's

relationships with Basketball Canada and the Ontario Volleyball Association and enable the university to attract more national and international competitions.

Kimel, who also earned a business administration diploma from U of T in 1967, believes people who attend sporting events get a lot more out of the experience than simply entertainment. "Being at the games connects you to a community. It connects you to the University of Toronto," he says. "If alumni become more supportive of U of T as a result of these connections, we'll see not only better sports facilities, but better teaching facilities, better lab facilities and a stronger school overall." — *Althea Blackburn-Evans*



All in the Family

You could say that volleyball runs in the family for Ed and Kristine Drakich, the sibling head coaches of the Blues men's and women's volleyball teams.

Both have played and coached at the national level and are individual inductees to the U of T Sports Hall of Fame. Their late father, Eli, who coached Blues volleyball from 1981 to 1996, is a team inductee. "Ed and

I grew up on the beach in a playpen while [our parents] played beach volleyball," says Kristine. "We've been around it all of our lives."

The Drakiches are very likely the only brother-and-sister combo coaching the same sport at a university in Canada. Kristine has led the Blues to the OUA Final Four 19 consecutive times; Ed played for Canada at the 1996 Olympics.

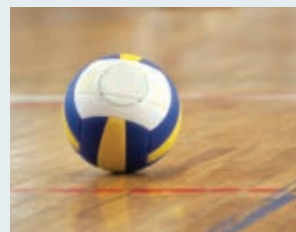
The sibling rivalry was sometimes intense when they were younger, but Ed says the competitive spirit has given way to a more

co-operative approach. "We help each other," he says. "We genuinely care about each other's programs."

Both are interested in raising volleyball's profile in Canada and at U of T. "We're trying to find ways to develop the sport so that it's in a better position in 10 years time. We both have a bigger, broader vision," says Kristine.

As for the immediate future, Kristine is hopeful the women's team will make it to the Ontario University Athletics finals, while Ed's team is aiming to make the

playoffs. Sports are unpredictable, though. Says Kristine: "On any given day, anybody can win." — *Joe Howell*





Stay Awhile! New rules let international students reside in Canada for longer after graduating

THE FUTURE PROSPECTS of international students who hope to stay in Canada after completing their studies just got a little brighter.

Earlier this year, Ottawa announced that international graduates of a Canadian university can stay for three years without an employment offer.

Previously, to apply for a postgrad work permit, international students had to find employment in their area of study within 90 days of completing their degree. Canada permitted

graduates working in Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal to stay for one year and those who found a job outside these major centres to stay for two years.

University of Toronto officials, who lobbied for the change, said the new rule will give Canadian universities a competitive edge over universities in other countries. The U.S., for example, limits the type of employment graduates may seek and allows them to stay for only one year after graduating.

The government also introduced a measure that allows international graduates to achieve permanent residence status from within Canada, rather than having to leave first to apply.

U of T wants to attract more graduate students, and part of this enrolment growth will come from abroad. Any measure that makes Canadian universities more attractive vis-a-vis their counterparts in other countries should help U of T's graduate recruitment drive.

Heather Kelly, director of Student Services at the School of Graduate Studies, says international students and employers are already praising the new rules. "Graduate students say that employers are more willing to talk to them about potential positions," she says.

Jeff Muzzerall, director of the Corporate Connections Centre at the Rotman School of Management, was one of several U of T staff who helped bring about the changes. Last year, Muzzerall wrote to a contact in government and outlined the constraints that the regulations imposed on students and suggested how to remove them. He says he's thrilled with the results. "The government exceeded all our expectations. We want the best and the brightest from around the world to study in Canada." — *Zoe Cormier*

Continued from page 12

second-largest source of revenue – to “more accurately reflect actual operating costs, quality of the [educational] experience and demand,” according to the report. (Tuition fees and government grants make up more than three-quarters of U of T's operating revenue.) The university would remain accountable to the province for ensuring accessibility and maintaining student financial support.

President Naylor kicked off the long-term planning process in June 2007 by releasing an initial discussion paper. In October 2007, he commissioned four task forces – each chaired by a university governor and including faculty, staff, students and alumni – to consider issues arising from the community's responses to the discussion paper. The task forces consulted widely and received scores of submissions. Their final reports – on long-term enrolment strategy, institutional organization,

university resources and university relations and context – informed the president's report, which was released in October. Governing Council commissioned a fifth task force, on university governance, and this task force recently completed the first phase of its report.

Governing Council approved *Towards 2030: A Long-Term Planning Framework for the University of Toronto* in principle at a meeting in late October. This eight-page document outlines the broad strategic directions arising from the planning process. Naylor says the framework does not set out or change university policy, but serves as a long-term planning guide. “It must be viewed as a living document,” Naylor notes. “As the context and conditions change, the framework will need to be reviewed and modified.” — *Scott Anderson*

|| ☞ Read the task force reports and President David Naylor's synthesis report at www.towards2030.utoronto.ca.



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Healing the Heart Specially engineered tissue patches could help heart attack patients fully recover

It may be that only time can mend a broken heart, but a University of Toronto researcher has come up with a way to repair a damaged one, using patches of specially engineered tissue.

Almost three-quarters of the 70,000 Canadians each year who have heart attacks survive. But even those who appear to

recover fully sustain some permanent heart damage, since the attack temporarily slows or stops the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle, causing cells to die. Scar tissue, made of tough collagen fibres, moves in quickly but, unlike normal heart tissue, doesn't beat because it's more rigid and inflexible. It can't contract. The damage worsens over >>>

>> time and can lead to the disabling and potentially fatal condition of congestive heart failure.

Since the heart can't heal itself, bioengineer Milica Radisic, 32, is looking at ways to replace scar tissue using tissue engineering and stem cell technology. Previous attempts to inject stem cells into damaged hearts have had limited success, as 90 per cent of the stem cells either die or are washed away. But Radisic, an assistant professor in the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering and the department of chemical engineering and applied chemistry, is growing patches of beating heart tissue in the lab. "My idea is that for a little scar, this can patch over it," she says. "If it's a big scar that goes through the entire ventricular wall, a surgeon would first excise it and then replace it with the lab-grown tissue."

Radisic began by seeding cardiac cells from newborn rats into a porous collagen sponge. While earlier studies had experimented with stimulating such cells mechanically, Radisic hit upon the idea of using electrical stimulation, like that from a pacemaker, to get the cells to contract, as if they were beating. The cells responded beautifully, growing into full tissue as the collagen sponge biodegraded. "Over six or seven days, the cells started behaving like real heart tissue," Radisic says. She got equally good results when she repeated the study using cardiac cells from mice.

Radisic's current studies involve the same protocols, but using human embryonic stem cells to create a small, dime-sized patch of heart tissue. She's also injecting various lines of stem cells into the engineered tissue to see what improvements might result and which stem cells are the most likely to proliferate and survive.

So how excited should we get about Radisic's research? "Very!" she responds. "We can make tissue in the lab that resembles real tissue." The work could lead to techniques for repairing heart damage caused by other conditions, such as diabetes. Massachusetts Institute of Technology has already noticed Radisic's research: a recent issue of the MIT *Technology Review* named her one of 2008's Top 35 Inventors Under 35. — *Marcia Kaye*



All Roads Lead to...Madaba? Small Jordanian city was ancient metropolis, U of T field researchers find

ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK BY A U OF T RESEARCH TEAM is lending credence to the theory that a small city in Jordan was a major centre of trade and activity hundreds of years before Rome was founded.

A team of students and professors is helping excavate parts of downtown Madaba, and has spent hundreds of hours drawing and analyzing shards of pottery and other remains as part of an undergraduate research program in the department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. Thanks to field and lab work by the U of T group and other researchers, scholars now believe that the city occupied an area as large as Toronto's Trinity Bellwoods Park – huge by ancient standards – and was surrounded by a fortified wall five metres high. A building constructed from huge stones a metre wide may have been part of a palace or religious residence, says U of T professor Tim Harrison, who runs the program with instructor and research associate Debra Foran.

Like any contemporary metropolis, ancient Madaba had its share of hard times, too. Earlier this year, the U of T team found the remains of small, poorly built utilitarian buildings that Harrison says were constructed by people who returned to Madaba after it was violently destroyed by an unknown people in the first millennium BC.

Stephanie Crocker (BSc 2004 UTM), now co-ordinator of the Peel Environmental Youth Alliance at EcoSource, says her seven-week trip to Madaba in third year helped bring her classroom lessons to life. "It enables you to be in a place in time in a way you can't experience in a textbook," she says. — *Owen Jarus*



The Big Idea

Tower Power Toronto mayor picks up U of T plan to green, preserve and beautify the city's highrises

Hundreds of thousands of Torontonians live in highrise apartment buildings constructed between 1950 and 1970. While structurally sound, the buildings lack insulation and have outdated heating and ventilation systems. They also lack recycling chutes. For a city aiming to conserve, these are significant problems – it's too expensive and disruptive to tear down and start over.

The answer, according to Ted Kesik and Ivan Saleff, is renovation. For the last eight years, the University of Toronto architecture professors and building scientists have been developing ways to preserve and beautify the city's 1,000

concrete slab apartments while also making them more environmentally efficient. Kesik says that the buildings are “extremely robust” from a structural point of view, even if they are now considered unattractive. Many have underground parking and indoor swimming pools, as well as great views of the city.

The Kesik and Saleff solution involves wrapping the towers in “new skin”: aesthetically pleasing overcladding that will support high-speed Internet cables and garbage separation chutes. The building scientists define “skin” as anything outside the building, such as walls, windows, roofs and balconies (these last are the towers’ corroding Achilles heels, and must be strongly reinforced). Replacing these elements could reduce the building’s energy consumption by up to 50 per cent and help cut the city’s greenhouse gas emissions. The process is intended to extend each building’s life by 50 years and can be implemented while tenants stay in the

building in order to minimize disruption to their lives.

The proposal has the added benefit of preserving Toronto’s stock of affordable rental housing – in dwindling supply in a city where condos are beyond the reach of most low-income residents. Earlier this year, Mayor David Miller formally endorsed the scheme, launching the Mayor’s Tower Renewal Project, with Kesik and Saleff developing technical guidelines for the job. The mayor’s project intends not only to upgrade the buildings, but to fill in underused green spaces around them with urban agriculture, establish stores and community centres close by, and provide the towers with better transit service.

This could all take a long time, though Kesik estimates that four pilot buildings could be fixed up within 18 months. “A typical comprehensive retrofit of a 20-storey building costs from \$4–\$6 million and pays for itself in about 15 years,” he says.

Above all, Kesik is grateful that the project has allowed his team to marry ivory-tower theory with concrete-tower reality. “It’s so important to be engaged in issues that mean something to people,” he says. – *Cynthia Macdonald*

Factoid

The Great Bottled Water Swindle



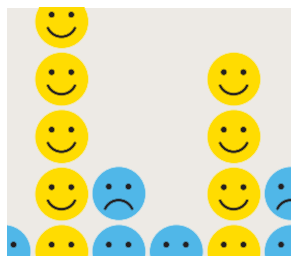
Last summer, Andrew Miall snapped this photograph of a skid of bottled water at his local grocery store. The U of T geology professor calculated that consumers were paying between 300 and 3,000 times more for it than they would pay for regular tap water, even though the

bottled stuff was of no better quality. Miall used the picture and stats in a presentation at the Moose Jaw Festival of Words in July. The next thing he knew, *National Post* columnist Diane Francis had written about it, and bloggers everywhere began buzzing over the bottled water “scam.” In the Internet age, it seems a picture is worth a lot more than 1,000 words.

Prototype

Up against Google

With BlogScope, a U of T computer science group is taking on the search titan in the realm of public opinion



THE EXPLOSION OF BLOGS, message boards and other online forums for public opinion is providing an unprecedented window into what people around the world are thinking.

It's a potential dream for anyone – from marketers to politicians – who wants to gauge public opinion.

But brand managers who want to know what, say, Australians think of their product, or whether

an ad campaign generated any interest in the blogosphere, may not find what they're looking for in Google search results.

Enter BlogScope, a new search engine under development by Professor Nick Koudas, doctoral student Nilesh Bansal and a team of graduate and undergraduate students in U of T's computer science department. BlogScope's web crawlers scan all public user-generated information on the Internet – including almost 30 million blogs, millions of YouTube videos, Wiki edits, message boards and microblogging services such as Twitter – multiple times a day. They also monitor more than 50 news sites, along with readers' comments about articles.

While Google currently dominates the market for Internet search, Koudas sees room for a specialized program that provides more context for search results. "We try to make sense of the results," he says.

Using different coloured fonts, BlogScope indicates whether the content of a search result expresses a positive, negative or neutral opinion. It can also sort results by gender and age (between 10 and 30 per cent of bloggers disclose these details). A world map pinpoints where the search term is written about most frequently.

The program also provides a list of topics that are closely related to the search term. Users might get a list of side-effects of a medication, for example, after typing in the drug's name.

One of the search engine's most interesting features is the "popularity curve," which allows users to track through time what people are writing about most often. "Ten years from now, you could ask what the important events were associated with the Iraq War," says Koudas. With BlogScope, users can also compare the popularity of topics (such as "Obama" and "McCain") and see how the rankings change day by day.

The U of T team has filed a patent and is putting the final touches on the interface. The group is working with the Innovations Group at U of T and MaRS to commercialize some features of BlogScope, although a basic version will be free. A beta, or test, version without all the features mentioned here, is available at www.blogscope.net. – *Lisa Bendall*

Findings



Killer bees

Commercial bumblebees are spreading disease to wild bees, contributing to a reduction in the natural pollinating bee population and raising serious implications for agriculture, a

U of T study has found. The situation is alarming because as much as a third of the human diet comes from plants pollinated by insects, says Michael Otterstatter, a professor in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology and a co-author of the study.

Using a combination of mathematical modelling and field data, Otterstatter and his team found that commercially reared bumblebees have introduced a contagious and potentially fatal pathogen into wild bumblebee populations. Across several sites in southern Ontario, the team found *Crithidia bombi* infecting up to one-half of wild bumblebees near industrial greenhouses that use commercial bees for pollination.

Otterstatter hopes that these findings will lead to better management of domestic bees.




Controlling diabetes

People with Type 2 diabetes soon may be able to control their blood sugar with a shot of the medication exenatide just once a week, rather than the current twice-daily version.

Researchers at U of T, working with scientists at Amylin Pharmaceuticals and Eli Lilly, have found that a new long-acting formulation of exenatide controlled blood sugar better than the conventional shorter-acting drug. Although further studies are needed to confirm the findings, the research could ultimately change how diabetes is managed.

Dr. Daniel Drucker, a professor in the department of medicine at U of T and a clinician-scientist at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, was the principal investigator in a multi-centre study that analyzed results in 259 patients completing 30 weeks of therapy. The patients who received the once-weekly shot experienced more stable blood sugar levels and fewer side-effects.

||  Read more about the latest U of T research at www.research.utoronto.ca



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Q&A

Ask an Expert

Miriam Diamond Environmental Toxins



Geography professor **Miriam Diamond** studies how chemicals travel through the environment and enter the human body. In March, Diamond was appointed co-chair of Ontario's Toxics Reduction Scientific Expert Panel to help create a provincial strategy for reducing toxins in the environment. She spoke with

editor **Scott Anderson** about the complexity of that task.

There are thousands of chemicals in our air, food, water and the goods we purchase. How do you even begin to determine which ones pose the greatest risk? We look at how much of the chemical is produced and whether it is likely to hang around in the environment. Can it accumulate at high levels in organisms such as fish? Is it toxic at the levels humans are exposed to? That's often difficult to answer. Toxicologists all over the world are trying to figure out what the effects of these chemicals are on animals in the ecosystem and on humans. We look at their studies.

Quite often chemicals that are initially thought to be safe turn out not to be. Why? There's a big difference between how a small amount of a chemical behaves in a lab test when it's being examined for approval and what happens when large amounts are released into the environment. In the years immediately following the Second World War, when a lot of chemicals were approved, we didn't know how far-reaching their effects could be.

A big mind shift occurred in 1962, with the publication of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*. Carson, an ecologist, showed that pesticides intended for use on agricultural prod-

ucts were not staying put – that a pesticide intended to eradicate a bug in a field was also thinning the shells of hawk eggs. Her book was a wake-up call to the complexity of chemical behaviour in the ecosystem.

We've been hearing a lot recently about Bisphenol A. Tell me about the problems with it. Bisphenol A is used in CDs, cell phones, water bottles and the epoxy lining in tin cans, among many other things. Worldwide production has been increasing at six to 10 per cent a year.

Four thousand studies have been done on Bisphenol A and there's still a raging controversy over its health effects. What's emerging now is that every chemical in high production needs to undergo a battery of tests. The problem is not just Bisphenol A, but that we use it in so many applications.

Are there standard tests performed on these chemicals before they are approved? It depends on how much of the chemical is to be produced, but less information is required than you might think. There are some inconsistencies and loopholes in federal regulations, especially with respect to imported products. Think of all the recent recalls on toys with elevated lead concentrations.

Is there anything individuals can do to reduce their exposure to potentially harmful chemicals? It's very hard to act individually to reduce your exposure. What we really need to do is act on a societal level. We need to vote in governments with strong environmental policies that are central to their overall ambitions. It's unfair to put the onus on individuals because the issues are very complicated. A recent study by Nora McKendrick, a PhD student in sociology, found that in the past decade the message around environmental issues has become individualized. The focus is on what you can do. But the issues are becoming more and more complex, which makes it harder for individuals to take steps. It's just not the way we're going to solve these problems.

Find out more about the Toxics Reduction Scientific Expert Panel at www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/toxics/panel.php. Read the full interview with Prof. Diamond at www.magazine.utoronto.ca.

Powerboat

It looks like a canoe and floats like a canoe, but you wouldn't want to take this sleek 20-foot craft on a trip through Algonquin Park: it's made from concrete.

"Well, it's *technically* concrete," says Owen Melville, a fourth-year engineering student and the technical project manager for U of T's concrete canoe team. To make the material lighter and more flexible, the team added tiny, hollow glass spheres, latex and fibres to cement and water, instead of the usual sand or gravel.

The result is a canoe that weighs just 48 kilograms and is pliable in the water. It also won fourth place against 13 university teams at last year's Canadian National Concrete Canoe Competition. After researching possibilities for their concrete mix, Melville and his 30-member team will cast a new canoe in January, and believe they have a shot of winning the 2009 contest in Montreal in May. The strategy: "Work on the aesthetic appeal of our canoe," he says. "And pick really strong paddlers."



Engineering students (from front) Eric Bradshaw, Eva Potter and Paul Haist

Climate Detectives A Yukon lake's past could yield hints about the North's future as temperatures rise



MORE THAN 11,000 YEARS OF SOUTHWEST YUKON'S climate history is preserved in a slender column of layered sand, clay, mud and organic debris that resides in a walk-in fridge in the university's geography building on St. George Street.

The 2.8-metre-long core's original home was beneath the bottom of Kusawa Lake, which stretches north and south for more than 70 kilometres southwest of Whitehorse. The size of the drainage basin (4,300 square kilometres) and maximum depth (135 metres) of the lake's southern half make it an outstanding natural lab for reconstructing the past climate from the lake-bottom sediments.

Nicole Chow, 24, and Krish Chakraborty, 23, are the paleo-detectives decoding the clues from the 2.8-metre core. It is one of 11 cores that Chow (BSc 2007 St. Mike's) helped extract from Kusawa in 2006. Chakraborty (BSc 2007 Woodsworth, MSc 2008) has recorded the populations of diatoms – microscopic algae that leave behind distinctive glassy skeletons – in

the core's many layers. The relative abundance of diatoms is a tipoff to whether the ambient conditions were warm or cool.

Using all 11 cores, Chow, who is working on her MSc in geography, is investigating the quantity and composition of sediment. The sand layers deposited by flood waters can signal the melting of a warmer period. Already the two researchers have discovered that the climate in the southwest Yukon underwent swings spanning several thousand years starting 11,000 years ago. They don't know exact temperatures, but can surmise the lake's conditions. "[Our research] says more about the biology of the lake as opposed to exact temperature reconstruction," notes Chakraborty.

The two researchers hope that by showing how the physical and biological nature of a big northern lake changed during large natural climate swings, they will help scientists get a better handle on the effects of human-induced climate change in the coming decades. – Peter Calamai



A NEW ERA

IN PUBLIC HEALTH



By James Fitzgerald

For decades, the medical profession has favoured treatment over prevention. U of T's Dalla Lana School of Public Health is setting out to change that thinking

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ORE THAN FIVE YEARS HAVE PASSED since the SARS crisis hit Toronto. Few will forget Sheela Basrur (MD 1982, MHSc 1987, DSc *Hon.* 2008), the city's top medical officer, calmly updating residents while health-care workers searched for a way to arrest the spread of the fatal virus.

Before SARS could be stopped, it killed 44 people, led to the loss of millions of tourist dollars and exposed weaknesses in Canada's once-peerless public health system through a barrage of humiliating publicity. The crisis dramatized the importance of vigilant public health measures and how Canada – historically a world leader in health care – had taken the system for granted. “Many inside and outside the public health field had been lulled into a false sense of security,” says Dr. David Naylor, the dean of U of T's Faculty of Medicine when SARS hit.

In the wake of the SARS crisis, Naylor, who is now president of U of T, led a team of health experts who assessed the country's ability to deal with a major infectious disease outbreak, and then advocated an overhaul of the public health system. Previous to SARS, the chair of public health sciences at U of T had enlisted a group of colleagues, including Naylor, to champion the idea of a school of public health. Following the SARS crisis and the release of Naylor's report, the idea gained momentum and U of T developed a plan for the new school. Five years later, thanks to a timely donation from philanthropists Paul and Alessandra Dalla Lana (see p. 35), the vision became a reality: in September, U of T opened the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

To lead the school, U of T sought a world-class researcher with experience building an internationally renowned public health program. The university found that person in Dr. Jack Mandel, an international expert on the lifestyle, environmental and occupational causes of cancer who was chair of

the department of epidemiology at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta. Between 2002 and 2008, under Mandel's direction, the Rollins School hired more faculty, increased student enrolment and expanded cancer research.

Mandel, like many public health professionals, demonstrates broad interests and expertise. He moves with little apparent effort from discussing scientific studies in minute detail to musing philosophically about the health-care responsibilities of government, universities and the private sector. A Winnipeg native, Mandel came back to Canada after 36 years in the U.S. because he believes U of T can be a world leader in public health education. “My goal is that within five years, the Dalla Lana School will be a global destination, ranked alongside Harvard and Johns Hopkins,” he says.

Mandel is not building the Dalla Lana School of Public Health from scratch, of course. A public health department has existed in the Faculty of Medicine since 1975. But Mandel intends to broaden the school's mandate and raise its profile so it plays a central role in the renewal of public health in Canada and around the world. As he sees it, the Dalla Lana School, one of only a handful of graduate schools of public health in Canada, will perform three main functions: it will educate public health practitioners and researchers at the master's and PhD levels; conduct groundbreaking research into some of today's most important public health issues; and work with governments and agencies to develop better health policies.

Educating new public health professionals and enabling existing practitioners to update their skills is an important aspect of the school's mandate, says Mandel. “There's a tremendous demand for people trained in public health in all segments of society – public and private,” he says, noting that the school could accept only 20 per cent of the 600 applicants for the current academic year. Mandel would like the school to continue to enrol students from many different backgrounds



Jack Mandel, founding director of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, believes the school must play a leading role in educating the Canadian public about lifestyle diseases such as obesity and diabetes

– as well as international students, who Mandel says eventually return to their home countries to build public health infrastructure and help U of T forge international research collaborations. “One of my goals is to expand our capacity to better accommodate the many highly qualified people who apply,” he says.

The school’s curriculum marries hard and soft sciences to teach students about the interplay among human biology, behaviour and health. The field tends to attract broad-minded thinkers from a mix of academic backgrounds who learn how to probe the determinants of health – culture, biology, genetics, the environment and social networks. Researchers affiliated with the school are studying a range of issues, from

how to reduce workplace injuries, to the health effects of second-hand cigarette smoke, to how genetics affect the body’s absorption of nutrients. Faculty and staff will work with public health agencies in Canada and abroad to ensure the country is prepared to stop SARS-type crises as they emerge. (The school is forging a partnership with the new Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, which is headed by U of T’s former provost, Dr. Vivek Goel.)

U of T’s department of public health sciences has worked closely with partner hospitals and community organizations. The Dalla Lana School will maintain this tradition. “What’s unique about the University of Toronto compared to other schools in North America is its large number of affiliations with community health agencies and the practice side of public health,” notes Mandel. Many people working in health agencies outside the university teach classes, mentor students and give students research opportunities that often lead to full-time positions after they graduate. “Hundreds of people contribute to the educational mission of this school,” he says, noting that this group includes staff at Cancer Care Ontario, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, the Toronto Department of Public Health and several hospitals, among many others.

“Building those bridges showed remarkable foresight, allowing students to form practical connections with the agencies they may work for one day. We couldn’t have done that if we had lived in isolation all those years.”

In the early 20th century, public health professionals concentrated on infectious diseases. While the postwar era brought great strides in controlling infections such as tuberculosis and influenza, smoking rates soared and cancer rates soon followed. In the 1960s, public health was redefined to include chronic conditions such as cancer and heart disease, as well as positive factors such as nutrition and exercise. Many considered modern

medicine to have “beaten” infectious diseases. Then AIDS emerged. SARS struck. And health-care workers discovered superbugs – bacteria that are highly resistant to antibiotics.

Mandel believes the Dalla Lana School must play a leading role in educating the Canadian public about the alarming spike in lifestyle diseases, such as obesity and diabetes, which threaten to burden our health-care system. “Too often, there’s been too much hype about public health issues, and people can’t separate the wheat from the chaff,” he says. “The only source of information is the mass media, which is not always accurate or comprehensive. We must weigh in on a neutral basis and present the facts as we see them.”

Ultimately, though, part of the school’s mission is to ensure that the next generation of public health practitioners is equipped to handle health issues as they arise. “Who could have predicted SARS?” he asks. “Who knows what the next major crisis will be? We’ve got to prepare our students the best we can to have the skills and flexibility to deal with new challenges as they emerge.”



BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR, rapid industrialization and immigration overwhelmed Canada’s primitive public health system. There was no federal department of health. Public health measures were local, reactive and poorly co-ordinated. In Toronto, polluted water and unpasteurized milk caused cyclical typhoid epidemics; the national infant mortality rate spiked to 20 per cent. For decades, diphtheria victims, mostly children, suffered and died while their families watched helplessly; only the rich could afford to import the American antitoxin.

Early in 1914, Dr. John Gerald FitzGerald (MD 1903) proposed to the university that he manufacture a safe, effective diphtheria antitoxin at a minimum cost to doctors, pharmacists and boards of health across Canada who would provide it to patients for free. FitzGerald’s idea spawned Connaught Laboratories, which set up shop in a cramped basement lab in the medical school. FitzGerald’s radical vision – of a full range of preventive medicines being free to all Canadians regardless of class or income – was unprecedented.

The confluence of the Great War, a golden age of medical

“Who could have predicted SARS? Who knows what the next major crisis will be? We’ve got to prepare our students the best we can to have the skills and flexibility to deal with new challenges as they emerge”

philanthropy and the epic discovery of insulin at U of T quickly vaulted Canadian preventive medicine to a world leadership position. In 1924, the Rockefeller Foundation pledged \$650,000 to the university to establish a School of Hygiene – only the third in North America, after Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and Harvard University in Boston. As the academic arm of Connaught Labs, the School of Hygiene, at 150 College St., became a scientific and political hub of the public health movement. By delving into the best of European and American thinking, the school trained hundreds of public health workers and policy-makers domestically and internationally. In 1940, the *New York Times* rated U of T’s model – with its unique blend of training, research and production of preventive medicines as a public service – as the finest in the world.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, Connaught Labs helped other nations reap the benefits of its achievements – insulin and diphtheria toxoid in the 1920s, the anticoagulant heparin in the ’30s, penicillin in the ’40s and polio vaccine in the ’50s. Billions of doses of Connaught vaccines saved countless lives, domestically and overseas; insulin alone has saved more people than were lost in both world wars. Working with the World Health Organization, Connaught was a major player in the decades-long global campaign to wipe out smallpox, a dream realized in 1979. Smallpox is the first disease – and to date, *only* disease – to have been globally eradicated.

“Preventing disease is clearly cheaper than treating it. Ideally, we must try to prevent premature illness, particularly in the young”

In 1972, in a controversial move, the University of Toronto sold Connaught Labs. Today it's the Canadian arm of French-owned Sanofi Pasteur, the largest commercial vaccine producer in the world. Following the sale, U of T's Faculty of Medicine absorbed the School of Hygiene. With the steep decline in the incidence of infectious diseases, many saw the labs and school as victims of their own excellence.



THE MANDATE OF KEEPING PEOPLE healthier longer is challenging to put into action. The major difficulty: translating scientific findings into actual health improvements. Mandel's own research suggests that Aspirin and calcium may help prevent colon cancer. But obtaining scientific evidence of a substance's health effects is only the first step. “Once we accumulate the science and can establish a causal link between a disease and a behaviour or a substance, what do we do then?” he asks. “It's never easy.”

Public health workers must communicate scientific findings in a way that stands out amid the hundreds of other messages reaching the public each day. And these findings need to motivate people to change their behaviour to improve their health. Mandel believes that one way to accomplish this is to focus on the *cause* of the disease rather than the disease itself. “We can't think of only one disease when we think about prevention,” he says. “Unfortunately our system is set up with distinct organizations – the Heart and Stroke Foundation or Canadian Cancer Society, for instance – that focus on only one disease.”

Developing the right message is also a challenge. It has been known for years, for example, that eating a healthy diet and getting regular exercise are the best ways to prevent Type 2 diabetes, yet many people still fail to eat well or get the exercise they need. New habit-changing techniques might be required. The Dalla Lana School's Health Promotion Group examines how the social and physical environment affect health. “If we change our environments – if schools introduced longer recesses and more exercise, for example – it forces people to change.”

Influencing the general public is one thing; changing long-held practices of government and the medical profession is another. The federal government devotes less than five per cent of Canada's \$160-billion health-care budget to preventive medicine, and many doctors subscribe to a pill-for-every-ill mentality. “For a long time, people were lamenting the unequal distribution between clinical and preventive care,” notes Mandel. “It's not a new thing, but we've seen the balance get progressively worse. Advances in medicine are keeping more people alive longer. Aging baby boomers are going to be experiencing chronic diseases such as diabetes and Alzheimer's disease, which are ruinously expensive to treat.”

“Preventing disease is clearly cheaper than treating it. Ideally, we must try to prevent premature illness, particularly in the young. Think of the tragedy of young people who become ill from diseases we could have prevented. Why wouldn't we make the investment to prevent a disease that consumes huge resources? People live a long time with that disease, and it causes a tremendous drain on the health-care system. What are we leaving for the next generation?”

Mandel acknowledges that 20th-century public health efforts – improved water safety, strict seatbelt laws, aggressive anti-smoking campaigns and mass immunizations – have raised life expectancy and led to a healthier population. Yet the diffuse, near-invisible nature of public health has continued to take a back seat to the more glamorous treat-and-cure arm of medicine.

“I don't know what it takes,” Mandel says with a sigh. “Public health has never been sexy. It doesn't seem to draw the money or get the credit from politicians. Public health education in American medical schools has virtually disappeared. We're more inclined to put money into transplanting organs – hardly the long-term solution.” Mandel was shocked by a recent newspaper headline reporting that, between meeting patients, only 28 per cent of physicians wash their

hands. “And I’m not easily shocked,” he says. “We must not forget the basic teachings.”

Public health changes come in slow, painstaking increments. For example, the Ontario government’s recent legislation banning smoking in cars carrying children, based on a recommendation by the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (of which the Dalla Lana School is a principal sponsor), typifies the kind of inch-by-inch struggle that public health professionals engage in. One of Mandel’s own studies lasted for more than a quarter century. A major breakthrough, such as the discovery of insulin, happens only once every few generations.

“In medical practice, doctors affect one patient at a time while a good public health measure can affect whole communities,” Mandel observes. “That’s one of the reasons I was drawn to the field. It’s very satisfying to know that you can help significantly reduce rates of disease and death. In public health, you can make that kind of difference on that kind of scale. Not to mention the reduction in pain and suffering—you can’t put a price on that.”

IF A SARS-LIKE THREAT were to hit Ontario today, a vastly improved public health system is now poised to respond. Teaching hospitals, education, research and labs are working together to confront re-emerging infections and proliferating lifestyle diseases with a growing arsenal of intellectual and practical firepower.

The torch of passionate, pragmatic idealism and self-sacrifice that burned in the early pioneers has clearly passed to the current generation of public health professionals at U of T. No doubt FitzGerald and his colleagues would be heartened to see such a dedicated renewal of energy, resources and vision in this fresh “outbreak” of MSc and PhD students. If slippery superbugs can mutate into ever-more intelligent adversaries, so can human beings.

James FitzGerald wrote a profile of his grandfather, Dr. J.G. FitzGerald, in the Spring 2002 issue of U of T Magazine. Random House of Canada will publish his book An Irish Madness, a blend of family and medical history, in summer 2009.

The Dalla Lanas Make Their Mark

\$20-million gift to U of T will help refurbish Canada’s role as an innovator in public health



Alessandra and Paul Dalla Lana

Paul Dalla Lana doesn’t believe in doing worthwhile things in small measure. The real estate entrepreneur gave \$20 million to U of T last April to establish the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, and says the desire to make a significant contribution simply reflects the way he does business.

Four years ago, he founded NorthWest Healthcare Properties REIT, now the largest private owner and manager of medical buildings in Canada. “We’ve always tried to do things at a scale and with a level of commitment that’s bigger rather than smaller,” says Dalla Lana, who lives in Toronto. “My view is that if it’s worth doing, then you should do it fully.”

In supporting the new School of Public Health, Dalla Lana and his wife, Alessandra, saw an opportunity to contribute to a Toronto institution that aims to rank among the best in the world. They liked the idea of refurbishing Canada’s image as an international innovator in public health. And they hope that the school will find ways to improve Canada’s own health-care system, which is

struggling to meet the demands of an aging population. “We wanted to give a much-needed boost to an area that has been sometimes overlooked,” he says.

A Vancouver native, Dalla Lana earned an economics degree from the University of British Columbia and worked for a short time as an economist. He returned to UBC to earn an MBA, and, after graduating in 1994, founded NorthWest Value Partners (the parent company of Northwest Healthcare Properties REIT). The real estate market was in a slump and most of his classmates were landing jobs in investment banking or management consultancy. Dalla Lana, 42, opted for the road less taken. “My mindset has always been to look where others are not,” he says.

A strong believer in the value of education, Dalla Lana describes his family’s history as “the classic immigrant story.” All four of his grandparents immigrated to Canada from Italy, and made educating their children a priority. “My grandparents, if they were here, would be overwhelmed by how successful their clan has been.”

Dalla Lana says he and Alessandra are looking forward to working with the school’s founding director, Jack Mandel, to further enhance the University of Toronto’s leading role in Canadian health care. “You spend a lot of your time imagining how you can create or contribute to great things,” he says. “This is an opportunity to do just that.”

– Scott Anderson

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Photography by Jeff Wilson

Ms. Universe

Astronaut Julie Payette
prepares for her second
mission to space

By Stacey Gibson



T'S JUST AFTER SUNRISE ON MAY 27, 1999, and Canadian astronaut Julie Payette and six crewmates ready for takeoff aboard the space shuttle Discovery. At 6:49 a.m., they begin an eight-and-a-half minute journey to space, hurtling toward their destination of the International Space Station. They quickly accelerate to 28,000 kilometres per hour – or 25 times the speed of sound – which hits the crew with triple the force of gravity. For Payette, who is 200 pounds outfitted in her spacesuit, this translates into a resounding 600-pound weight. Rocketing toward Earth's outer atmosphere, the shuttle devours a liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen fuel – “basically,” says Payette, “a very, very well-controlled bomb.”

Forty hours later, the astronauts dock at the International Space Station. The space lab, which orbits 400 kilometres above Earth, is a multibillion-dollar engineering project involving 16 nations. Research is conducted in everything from medicine to materials science and fluid physics – laying the groundwork for human missions to Mars and beyond. Constructing the station is akin to attaching Lincoln Logs: each time a shuttle goes up, astronauts transport and assemble more modules and experiments. (Astronauts delivered the first module in 1998. In 2010, and 50 missions later, the lab will reach completion.) On this trip, the crew delivers four tonnes of supplies and equipment to prepare for the first astronauts who will soon arrive to live aboard. Payette, 35, supervises an eight-hour spacewalk to repair and further assemble the station. She also operates the Canadarm and monitors the space station systems. Ten days later, after a six-million-kilometre journey in orbit around Earth, the astronauts land at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. And Payette returns as the second Canadian woman to enter space (after Roberta Bondar in 1992) – and the first Canadian to set foot on the International Space Station.

This May, Payette, now 45, will journey to space for a second time. As the flight engineer aboard the space shuttle Endeavour, Payette – who earned a master's of applied science at U of T in 1990, and also received an honorary doctor of science in 2001 – will be busy. During the 15-day mission, she will be operating the robotic arms, including the Canadian robotic superstars Canadarm, Canadarm 2 and Dextre. Along with the commander and pilot, Payette will serve as part of the cockpit crew, responsible for taking the shuttle into space and back to Earth, for docking at the space station and for all manoeuvres and operations involving flying the spacecraft. The seven-member crew will deliver and install the last elements of the Japanese space agency's Kibo lab – which will

attach to the outside of the station, allowing for experiments to remain exposed to space.

When Payette first entered the International Space Station in 1999, it was a much smaller entity. It had only two modules and there were not any astronauts living aboard. Now it's the size of a three-bedroom house and inhabited by a crew of three. (Astronauts have lived there, on a rotating basis, since November 2000.) How does she feel about returning to the station? Payette, a self-described matter-of-fact Cartesian, is not one to deliver answers exuding with sentiment. “I was very privileged to go on the station when it was at the very beginning of construction. I find I am extremely privileged to go and work on it again when it's nearing completion. That's the way I would describe it.” She also speaks about her first time in space in pragmatic terms: “You have very little time to think about what it represents in terms of inner self or emotion. On your first flight, usually you don't have that much time even to enjoy weightlessness or this absolutely magnificent view of the Earth. The reason is that if you want this to be your profession, then you know that you're under evaluation. How you do on that first flight is going to determine whether or not you fly again. So this second flight, I think I'm going to have a bit more of this perspective to really enjoy the artifacts of being in space, which include weightlessness.”

Payette has been enthralled by the artifacts of space since she was a young girl. After watching an Apollo mission at her primary school in Montreal, she decided she wanted to be an astronaut. She began making scrapbooks of space missions and taped posters of astronauts to her bedroom door. She describes watching her first space flight: “I'm nine years old, I'm sitting down on the floor of a gym and I'm watching an Apollo mission. I don't speak English. I'm a girl.... I had never been in an airplane, and most of my family had never been in an airplane or anywhere near an airplane. And I thought this was so cool. That's what I wanted to do. It didn't matter to me that I was the wrong nationality, the wrong gender and spoke the wrong language. It didn't cross my mind that this was a bit of a far-fetched goal because when you're nine years old, you don't think about these things.”

It was not only her age, but her family that allowed her aspirations to take root. “You can always thwart someone's impetus to do something if you constantly bring them down,” says Payette, the second of three children. “I was very lucky to be in a family that didn't just laugh at me. They smiled a little, but they said, ‘OK, well you want to do that? Well, you better work, you better go to school, you better be good.’”

While selecting her academic and career tracks, Payette kept

The soft illumination in the shadowed cockpit adds an appropriately reverential feel. It's like entering an astronomical version of the Vatican; another way to lift yourself to the heavens

the idea of becoming an astronaut in the back of her mind, in case an opportunity should arise. After obtaining a bachelor of engineering degree from McGill University in Montreal, she completed a master's of applied science in electrical and computer engineering at U of T. Payette wrote her master's thesis on computer-based second-language instruction, an area of artificial intelligence. "Engineering is extremely useful for being an astronaut because it's extremely applied. What engineering teaches you in particular is to look at a problem, analyze that problem, look at what you've got available to solve that problem or to improve a system or to repair something or to design something new," she says. "That's exactly what we do in space. You need to be able to repair things and design new things, and you certainly have to have an inclination to look at a problem and try to solve it. Operational, we call it. So if you don't like that stuff, don't go into the astronaut business. It's all we do."

After graduating, Payette spent a year in Zurich, Switzerland, as a visiting scientist in IBM Research Laboratory's communications and computer science department. In 1992, at her next job – working in computer speech research at Bell-Northern Research in Montreal – she learned that the Canadian Space Agency was accepting applications for astronauts. 5,330 people applied. Payette was one of four selected. Four years later, Payette was chosen to attend NASA's astronaut candidate training.

THE NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER in Houston is a sprawling mega-complex staffed with 15,000 employees – engineers, astronauts, computer scientists – whose missions include putting humans in space. It is also the site of some of the world's most advanced high-tech hardware. One

August morning, Payette gives a tour of Building 5 and its two high-fidelity space shuttle simulators – the only two in the world. Payette leads the way through the first, the fixed-base simulator – which is a mock-up of the space shuttle's mid-deck and cockpit. The electricity is shut down in the cockpit, and she hunts for a flashlight. The soft illumination in the shadowed room adds an appropriately reverential feel. It's like entering an astronomical version of the Vatican; another way to lift yourself to the heavens. A multitude of switches surround the commander and pilot's seats, like a hyper-magnified 747 cockpit. The windows offer simulated views of what astronauts see in space – including the Canadarm and Hubble Space Tele-

scope. The flight software that runs in this cockpit is real, allowing any software glitches to be caught while safely on ground.

On the other side of Building 5 is the motion-based simulator, which looks like an industrial-sized gym locker on steel haunches. Of course, it's anything but rudimentary: operating on a hydraulic system, it pitches up and back down, mimicking the shuttle's takeoff and re-entry into the atmosphere. In a standard four-hour session, the astronauts practise several ascents and re-entries. The crew currently practising in the simulator will soon be journeying to repair the Hubble telescope.

Perhaps the most fascinating element of Building 5 is located behind the simulators: the offices of the Machiavellics, a group of intellectual schemers who focus on a highbrow sabotage, of sorts. Officially, they are called instructors in the Motion Based Instructor Station. They have earned their nickname because they contrive scenarios that fire astronauts some serious scientific curveballs. The Machiavellics introduce problems into simulations: they kill engines, cause computers to fail, stage electrical problems and make things crash. They are the monkey-wrench throwers and glitch-creators of NASA. Right now, they are igniting a pseudo-fire in the motion-based simulator, which the Hubble crew will have to hustle to extinguish. "Be nice to those guys, huh?" jokes Payette on her way out.

Like other aircraft pilots, astronauts spend a great deal of time training for worst-case scenarios and the unexpected. It's

In space, we're the
Maytag repairman,
the cook, the cleaner,
the proxy scientist,
the robotics operator
and the spacewalker.
We basically do
everything

what Payette calls “what-iffing,” so crew members can react swiftly in an unforgiving climate. In a mock-up of a Russian service module in Building Six later in the day, Payette sits on the floor and compares the International Space Station to a ship in a storm. “In the middle of the ocean, there is no Home Depot or hardware store. If you forgot a hammer or tape, or you didn’t measure the size of the plywood you want to put in, you’re doomed. If you’re going to construct something in the middle of the ocean, you’ll have to plan beforehand and once you go and execute it, you better have everything planned and working because there are not many options. We say ‘ship in a storm’ because the environment of space is one of the most hostile environments for a human being and equipment, period. There’s no air, there’s no pressure, it’s scorching hot when you’re exposed to the sun, and extremely cold when you’re not in the sun, and it varies every 45 minutes, from -150 degrees Celsius to +150 degrees Celsius. So you can imagine what it does to people or to equipment if you’re not properly covered or this is not well planned. There’s also the fact that for human beings, clearly, there’s an adaptation. There’s weightlessness, there’s radiation doses that are much higher outside the atmosphere of the Earth than they are here.”

An astronaut’s training is an incessant cycle of technical work, and developing and rehearsing procedures in simulators. But, of course, it also requires a large dose of intrepidity. The next day, Payette will spend several hours flying a T-38 Air Force training jet. A passionate pilot, Payette earned her captaincy on a CT-114 Tutor military jet in 1996, at the Canadian Forces Base in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Like all astronauts,

she has logged many hours on parabolic aircraft, which are modified commercial jets that simulate low-gravity levels through short free-falls. In 2004, Payette underwent a month-long endurance training program at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier in Quebec, in which she and other astronauts lived and worked in sub-zero temperatures that replicated some of the environmental rigours faced on the International Space Station.

Tremendous versatility is also key: along with her piloting and engineering skills, Payette speaks six languages. Besides French and English, she can converse in Spanish, Italian, German and Russian. (She learned Russian to communicate with her counterparts from Russia who are involved with the station.) “People who have demonstrated that they can do more than one thing in their life have a better chance of being noticed during an astronaut selection, because they’re looking for jacks-of-all-trades. In space, we’re the only ones on board. We’re the Maytag repairman, we’re the cook, we’re the photographer, we’re the document keeper, we’re the cleaner, we’re the proxy scientist, the robotics operator, the spacewalker. We basically do everything. So it’s not about being the top in one field, it’s about being able to adapt to several,” she says.

Payette’s versatility was evident even as a student at Massey College. While studying engineering, she also played softball, squash and badminton and was co-chair of the Lionel Massey Fund, helping to organize cultural, social and musical events for students. (Payette is still involved with the University of Toronto: she is a member of the President’s International Alumni Council, an advisory group composed of grads throughout the world who are leaders in their field.) Another interest that Payette pursued was music: she sang soprano with the prestigious Tafelmusik Chamber Choir in Toronto, performing baroque and classical pieces. Later, she joined the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Chamber Choir, and performed at Carnegie Hall with them. Payette is quick to underscore the group aspect: “I sing in a choir with these organizations. I’m not by myself. I’m not Sarah Brightman.” The idea of teamwork is tremendously important to Payette, and she repeatedly tacks toward this viewpoint. When she speaks about her training or experiences in space, she often uses the collective “we” as opposed to “I” and her comments about the job’s time commitments are militaristic: “You’re not one anymore, you’re part of a team, and you’ll make the necessary adaptation and sacrifice.”

During Payette’s initial interview with the Canadian Space Agency, her choral experiences showcased her ability to collaborate. “They asked me how, in my previous life, was I a

team player? And I said, well, I've been singing in choirs for 20 years. And therefore, clearly, I needed to sing the same tune, and was not supposed to sing out of key or out of tempo. And I'm really good with authority because I have a director in front there, and he or she sets the tempo and I follow it.... It's not my agenda, it's the group's agenda."

Is it more difficult, however, to be part of a group in which male astronauts outnumber females almost five to one? Payette says no, and believes astronauts are judged exclusively by their performance. In space exploration, she says, the distinction has to be ability because it is the key to a successful mission. "Competence, skills and *esprit de corps* are what set someone apart in the astronaut world. In contrast, nationality, gender, ethnic background, skin colour, mother tongue and other such characteristics actually become fairly transparent if you are considered competent at what you do." She adds, "Being a 'minority,' so to speak, has long ago ceased to be of concern and I do not perceive myself as an exception, even though females make up 17 per cent of the astronaut corps and there is only one French-Canadian astronaut working at NASA in Houston. In fact, I'd say it is actually a privilege to be considered 'different' from the norm, yet fully integrated in the group. I wouldn't trade places for anything."

Teamwork, of course, will also make further exploration in space possible. "I would say that there's a very good chance that we will see someone go to Mars in our lifetime. There are times when Mars is at one end of the sun and the Earth is at the other end, and we're talking 400 million kilometres. I

mean, we're months away from home," says Payette. "I think we'll see that as an endeavour of multiple nations again, just because it's such an incredibly difficult one. And that is a huge step again, as a species to be able to leave your home planet and go to another one."

B

ACK IN JUNE 1999, before Payette and the Discovery crew left the International Space Station, they wrote a message in the station's notebook, acknowledging their "pride and happiness to have contributed to the new space station." They also included a quote, attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, which Payette had supplied: "When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the Earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been and there you will always long to return."

A decade after her first flight into space, Payette will once again be looking down at the Earth from the skies. Has da Vinci's quote proven true for Payette? "That's exactly it, it's an addiction. It's also true for flying airplanes," she says. "I probably have a gazillion million hours as a passenger and a pilot, and I never settle for anything else but the window seat. It's great. It's a privilege. Human beings have been wanting to fly for millenniums. And we've barely started to do it. It's extraordinary."

Stacey Gibson is managing editor of U of T Magazine. She wrote about James Orbinski in the Spring 2008 issue.



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STOLEN WORDS

The Internet has made
plagiarizing easier than ever.
But detection methods have
gone high-tech, too

By Zoe Cormier

TEACHING ASSISTANT PAUL FILIPIUK was almost certain that a student in one of his cinema studies courses last year had plagiarized her essay. But he couldn't prove it.

"It was so obvious that she had gotten somebody else to write this for her. Her written exam was of the quality you'd expect of an undergraduate, but this paper read like it had been written by a PhD candidate," he says. "It was just way, way too good."

Filipiuk and the course professor searched the Internet for uncredited sources of the student's work but came up empty-

handed. The professor confronted the student, but she denied any wrongdoing. Since neither Filipiuk nor the professor could prove otherwise, they were forced to award the student a high mark. "It's very hard to prove a charge of plagiarism unless it is absolutely cut and dried," says Filipiuk.

Instances of academic misconduct are still rare at U of T, but have been growing in frequency for reasons that elude instructors and administrators. Some blame the abolition of Grade 13 in Ontario for leaving first-year students less well prepared for university and unaware of what constitutes



“When you used to have to write down notes from books by hand, you usually wouldn’t write the quote down verbatim.

Now it’s much easier to just cut and paste text than it is to paraphrase it”

plagiarism. Others say the Internet makes it too easy for students to cut and paste text into essays. Some believe that cheating is actually no more common than before, but instructors are more vigilant, leading to a greater number of students being caught.

There is no shortage of statistics about academic dishonesty, but views diverge on what the figures mean. In a widely reported University of Guelph study of more than 13,000 undergraduates at Canadian universities, which was conducted in 2006, slightly more than half of respondents admitted to having cheated on written work.

Professor Edith Hillan, U of T’s vice-provost in charge of academic matters, cautions against attaching much significance to the Guelph study because it drew responses from between just five and 25 per cent of the student population at the universities surveyed. The modest response rate prompted the study’s authors to state, “This study should not be used to make definitive claims about the state of academic misconduct within Canada, but rather as indicators of potential areas of concern and action.”

At U of T, the number of official cases of plagiarism climbed to 403 in 2005-06 from 92 a dozen years earlier. Hillan notes that this increase coincides with an almost 50 per cent increase in enrolment. When measured against the total student population, just 0.6 per cent of students are caught cheating each year. That’s still high in historical terms, but not as alarming a problem as the Guelph study suggests.

Geography professor Sarah Wakefield believes that many students accused of plagiarism don’t even realize they’ve done anything wrong – a situation she blames partly on the Internet. “When you used to have to write down notes from books by hand, you usually wouldn’t write the quote down verbatim,” she says. “Now it’s much easier to just cut and paste text than it is to paraphrase it.” Wakefield also says that first-year students can be unaware that they should not copy even a single sentence from a source.

Like many U of T professors, Wakefield has begun using the website turnitin.com to help detect plagiarism in student essays. Turnitin.com allows instructors to check student work

against millions of previously submitted essays stored in its vast databases. The site also checks student work against more than five billion web pages. “The software makes it much easier to show students how a particular sentence comes from a particular website,” says Wakefield. “It’s interesting to see the moment of transformation, when the penny drops and they realize what they’ve done wrong.”

Researchers at University of California, Berkeley, created turnitin.com in 1994 to catch students who submitted their own work in more than one class or handed in another student’s essay as their own. Two years later, the researchers formed a company, iParadigms, to license turnitin.com to other academic institutions. The company later expanded the software to identify material copied from the Internet. Thousands of institutions in more than 100 countries, including 45 colleges and universities in Canada, now use turnitin.com.

Turnitin.com doesn’t deliver a simple “yes or no” verdict on whether a work has been plagiarized. Instead, its “originality checking service” scans the text and scores it for similarity against everything in its database, granting each paper a percentage to indicate originality. It highlights text that appears in its database and flags quotations, even if they’re properly cited. Instructors use their judgment to determine if a student has plagiarized a work, quoted a passage without proper citation or coincidentally written sentences that resemble passages from turnitin.com’s database.

U of T licenses turnitin.com and encourages – but does not require – its professors to use it. Under university policy, professors can ask students to voluntarily submit their work to the website. (Professors create accounts for their courses at turnitin.com. Students establish a password-protected profile through which they can upload essays and other work.) Students who object to using the site can prove the originality of their work in other ways, such as by submitting a series of rough drafts. Approximately 500 U of T faculty members, or about one-fifth of the total, use the site.

Adrienne Hood, associate chair of the history department, has used turnitin.com in her undergraduate classes since 2005, and in that time hasn’t caught a single student plagia-

rising. In her view, the site acts as a deterrent. At the beginning of each term, she tells students why she uses turnitin.com and explains the difference between direct quotation and paraphrasing, how to properly cite sources and the importance of academic integrity. “First-year students especially aren’t always clear on this,” she says. Hood also suggests that students read about essay writing on U of T’s website, or visit one of the university’s writing centres to have their skills assessed. She also warns that U of T considers plagiarism a serious offence. Penalties for academic dishonesty range from a mark of zero (on a small assignment for a first-time offender) to expulsion (for a student who has previously been convicted under U of T’s academic code).

Hood reports that none of her students have objected to her using turnitin.com. “It evens the playing field,” she says. “Students like knowing they aren’t competing with those who just lift text from the Internet, for example. This doesn’t replace judgment, or my need to read and grade the paper carefully. But I don’t have to chase down and check citations, trying to assess what is original. This allows me to spend more time giving feedback and, ultimately, to teach better.”

Pam Gravestock, associate director of U of T’s Office of Teaching Advancement, has also encountered few student complaints about turnitin.com. “In the six years that U of T has licensed it, I have been informed of only a handful of students who have outright refused to use it,” she says.

Of the students who oppose the use of turnitin.com, many do so for reasons that have little to do with plagiarism. Dave Scrivener, a fourth-year Canadian Studies and anthropology student and vice-president of external affairs for the University of Toronto Students Union, has been a vociferous objector. He has argued that because turnitin.com is an American company, essays submitted to the site could fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Patriot Act – controversial legislation enacted after 9-11 that gives the American government unprecedented access to private information. He says that the American government could, hypothetically, scan turnitin.com’s database for words such as “bomb” and “jihad” and then criminally investigate the students who submitted papers with these words.

iParadigms recently responded to Canadian universities’ concerns about turnitin.com’s requirements under the Patriot Act by creating a separate server to store Canadian essays. It hired Digital Days, a Montreal IT company, to maintain the server.

Students at U of T and on other Canadian campuses have also raised concerns over turnitin.com’s copyright practices. Terry Buckland, the executive assistant of the Arts and Science Students’ Union at U of T, questions whether turnitin.com has the right to compile a database of student works without paying the students royalties. “Professors and graduate students wouldn’t want their own material hijacked, and I don’t think undergraduates should be treated any differently,” he says.

Turnitin.com hired the Canadian law firm Miller Thomson

to investigate copyright concerns. The firm concluded that the website does not violate student intellectual property rights. “In essence, uploading an electronic copy of an essay to Turnitin is no different than a student submitting a hard copy to the instructor in class,” says Gravestock.

Along with some students, there are others who would prefer not to use the service. English professor Nick Mount opposes using turnitin.com on philosophical grounds. He calls it “one more step” into the virtual classroom. “Technology is distancing us ever further and further from our students. At what point will society ask, ‘What do we really need universities for if we can just do all this online?’”

Mount has chosen not to use turnitin.com. Instead, at the beginning of the year, he assigns an in-class essay to assess how well each student writes. If he sees a passage in a subsequent paper that strikes him as suspiciously different from the student’s previous writing, he Googles it. “If a student can find the material online, so can I,” he says. In 10 years of teaching (seven at U of T and three at King’s College in Halifax), Mount has discovered between 30 and 40 cases of plagiarism.

Most professors find it extremely difficult to confront a student about plagiarism; it can emotionally devastate the student. “Accusing somebody of intellectual dishonesty is never a pleasant experience,” says Mount. “They are always tremendously distraught. I keep a box of Kleenex in my desk for those occasions. But what propels me is the sense that if I don’t go through with it, it devalues the achievements of other students.

“You can’t make the world a perfect place through software. And I can’t be responsible for the ethical development of my students. Some will always want to cheat. But most students cheat when they are bored and scared – it is my job as a teacher to make sure they are not bored and scared. It’s my job to motivate them. And if I’m supposed to treat my students as adults, and let them know that I am interested in what they have to say, using this software makes it much harder to tell them that I respect their ideas.”

Regardless of whether professors choose to use turnitin.com, the message from U of T administrators is clear: for the sake of the vast majority of students who play by the rules, plagiarism will not be tolerated. The university will also strive to ensure that students know what’s expected of them. “We take academic integrity very seriously. It is central to everything that we do,” says Hillan. “We need to make sure from an institutional perspective that our teaching and research are of the highest quality. If problems are uncovered, we can’t just brush them under the carpet.

“But we don’t just deal with problems once they occur; we also take a proactive approach. It’s ultimately about trying to prevent misconduct in the first place.”

Zoe Cormier (BSc 2005 Victoria) is a writer who recently moved from Toronto to London, England.



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Varsity Blues receiver Mark Stinson ran for two touchdowns in the first seven minutes in the 37th annual Red and Blue Bowl against York University at Varsity Centre in September. U of T defeated York 58-7 to claim their first Argo Cup in 12 years. The Faculty of Physical Education and Health is raising \$92 million for the Varsity Centre complex, which includes new training facilities for U of T athletes.

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John Oesch, an assistant professor in organizational behaviour, teaches a class in integrative thinking at the Rotman School of Management. In October, Rotman launched a \$200-million fundraising campaign for the school's new building, among other projects.

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Matt Selby plays Mark Antony in a Hart House Theatre production of *Julius Caesar* in November 2007. The theatre is raising \$8 million for an endowment to help fund future operations.

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Ignatius Augustine McEwan
Robert Molnroy

In Memory

The University of Toronto recognizes individuals who had gifts made in their memory between May 1, 2007, and April 30, 2008.

Eva Adler
Harvey Aggett
Stephanie Lianne Ali
Reginald Edgar Allen
Andy Anderson
Joan Anderson
John G. Anderson
Beverly Antle
Bram Appel
Bluma Appel
George Armitage
Lily Chung Hing Au Yung
Ethel W. Auster
Kenneth Au-Yeung
Sara Axler
Gilbert Bagnani
Irving Bain

Frank S. Ballinger
Wilson James Barbour
Diran Basmadjian
Jerry Becke
Grace V. Becker
Andre Leon Adolphe
Bekerman
Rowland J. Bell
Robert Beninati
Michael K. Berkowitz
Trevor Blake
Allan Bloom
Frederic C. Blum
Ann Boddington
Michael Bogнар
Peter Bosa
Eileen Bradley

John Bradley
Anthony August Brait
Thomas A. Branson
Marion Brown
J. David F. Buller
Miriam Burnett
Edward N. Burstynsky
Leon C. Bynoe
Angus Cameron
D. Ralph Campbell
Ross Campbell
Margaret Alice Canning
Harold Carter
Diane Charwood
Hetty C. H. Chu
R. Clark
Samuel D. Clark

Kelvin McKay
 Barry McKelvey
 Robert J. McLaughlin
 Roland R. McLaughlin
 Ronald J. C. McQueen
 Peter E. M. McQuillan
 Robert McRae
 Borina Meisami
 Carlos Melendez
 Donald S. Mills
 Ronald W. Missen
 Peter C. Moes
 James C. Monteith
 Muriel Moore Sloan
 Oskar Morawetz
 Mari-Ellen Murray
 Peter A. Naglik
 Barbara Neufeld
 S. R. Leroy Newman
 Joanne S. Norman
 James R. O'Brien
 Walter A. O'Grady
 Bertha E. Oliver
 Dennis O'Shea
 Joseph Owens
 Katherine Packer
 Marie Parkes
 Anna Maria Parry
 Colin Paterson
 Peter T. Patterson
 Laurence A. J. Pavlish
 Joyce Peacock
 Howard Pentland
 Lloyd Percival
 David J. Perley
 Jacqueline Perron
 Jacqueline Helen Perry
 Lena L. Pickup
 Doreen Polegato
 Man Chow Poon
 Jerry Thomas Prest
 Diana Rankin
 Anatol Rapoport
 Edward Bevan Ratcliffe

George J Riba
 Dorothy E. Richards
 Diane Richey Inglis
 John Richmond
 Douglas Riley
 Friedrich P J Rimrott
 Eugene D. Rittich
 John Lorne Rochester
 Albert Rose
 Betty Rose
 Joan S Rosenthal
 Gabrielle Ross
 Libby Ross
 May Ross
 Fannie Rostoker
 Louis Rostoker
 Murray Rumack
 Ann Marie Russell
 Snil "Sunny" Sahanan
 John D Salmon
 Hank Sandlos
 Peter Sands
 Miyumi Sasaki
 Dora Schnell
 Ernest Schnell
 David Seguin
 Myrna Spector Librach
 S. S. Seydegart
 Hamed Shahidian
 Leslie Earl Shaw
 Jean A. Shek
 Harry Shendelman
 Margaret Shih
 Charles E. Short
 Max Silver
 Eric Simpkin
 Zerada Slack
 Ronald Morton Smith
 Jaroslav Sodek
 Bryan Wayne Statt
 Arthur Steger
 Bertha Stein
 Jeffery A. Stinson
 David T. Stockwood

Frederick C. Stokes
 Marion M. Stone
 M. Lynne Sullivan
 Susan Tait
 Ting Sum Tang
 Colleen Tate
 Ronald Ryan Taylor
 Celia Tkatch
 James D. Todd
 Douglas E. Tough
 Raymond P. Tripp
 Marjorie Tyrrell
 Kiran van Rijn
 Gerrit Versloot
 G. Stephen Vickers
 Berta Vigil-Laden
 Wolfgang F. Vogel
 Rocco P. Volpe
 Seymour H. Vosko
 Lorne Wagner
 William J. Walsh
 Gordon C. Watts
 Mary-Margaret Webb
 Beverly Wedemire
 Sharon Wells
 Bessie Wilkes
 Owen Stephen Williams
 R. Stewart Willmot
 J. Tuzo Wilson
 M. Jean Wilson
 Harvey Stanton Windeler
 Sadye L. Wintre
 Paraskewia "Pasha"
 Wjunenko
 Johnson Wong
 Vincent Wroblewski
 Jui-Lin Yen
 Cecil C. Yip
 Johnny Kar Lok Yip
 Renia Yontef
 Taras Zakydalsky
 Frances Zelsman
 Donna Zielinski



PHOTO: LEWKO HRYHORUJW

Laura Arduini, captain of the Varsity Blues women's soccer team and an Ontario University Athletics all-star, lines up a pass during a playoff game against Carleton last year at Varsity Centre. U of T is raising money to support new athletic facilities, such as the Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport and the Kimel Family Field House.

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Through their commitment and annual giving at the leadership level, Presidents' Circle members help the university educate deserving students, attract and retain great faculty, and build innovative faculties and programs. Thank you to all of our Presidents' Circle members for their foresight, leadership and generosity. To view monthly listings of new and renewed Presidents' Circle members, please visit our website at www.giving.utoronto.ca/prescircle. For more information about the Presidents' Circle program, please contact (416) 978-3810.

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UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

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TD Insurance Meloche Monnex has been recognized across Canada for delivering courteous and professional service to our client base. Also, our organization is committed in helping our affinity partners, such as the University of Toronto to reach and surpass their goals.

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Many property insurance policies have coverage limits on certain items such as jewelry, furs, bicycles and computers. Read your policy booklet. If the standard coverage level is insufficient for you, you can usually modify your policy to obtain adequate coverage.

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All about Alumni



The City That Never Was In *Unbuilt Toronto*, Mark Osbaldeston explores an alternate civic destiny

One could say that cities are haunted by two species of ghosts: those of the structures that were demolished and are forever gone; and those of unrealized civic dreams—plans that could have altered a city’s destiny but never came to fruition.

Government lawyer Mark Osbaldeston (BA 1990 St. Michael’s) has made it his business to track down the latter,

exhuming the dusty reports and frayed architectural renderings that posit alternate futures for the City of Toronto. His first book, *Unbuilt Toronto: A History of the City That Might Have Been* (Dundurn Press), gathers up all these lofty ambitions and holds up a mirror to the city we have. “Toronto,” he observes, “is the result of so many choices, and those choices are still being made.” >>>

Our Own Jackie O. Former alumni governor encourages grads to consider “life-changing” role with U of T

FOR A LONG TIME AFTER GRADUATING, Jackie Orange (BA 1966 St. Michael's) didn't think much about volunteering for U of T, much less serving as an alumni governor. She focused on raising a family, then on developing a career in the financial sector.

In the late 1990s, Orange reached a point when she had the time – and inclination – to give back. She served as an alumni representative on Governing Council, the 50-member group that oversees U of T's academic, business and student affairs, for three terms. Last June, she stepped down after nine years (the maximum permitted by university bylaw).

Orange, who is now pursuing a career in governance in the for-profit sector, says serving on council changed her life. Although her schedule was sometimes onerous, Orange says she found it gratifying to work with alumni, staff, faculty and students – all of whom share a passion for education and U of T. “Alumni are a powerful force because of their enthusiasm for the university,” she says. “They're a great group to work with.”

Replacing Orange on Governing Council is John Stewart (BA 1995 Woodsworth), an investment advisor at TD Waterhouse and a major in the Canadian Forces Primary Reserve. He is an Arbor Award and Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award winner.

Nominations for two alumni governor positions being vacated in June 2009 will be accepted between January 9 and February 23. Interested alumni should contact the secretary of the College of Electors at (416) 978-6576 or governing.council@utoronto.ca, and visit www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca. The election will be held on April 8 during a College of Electors meeting. – *Scott Anderson*



My Favourite...

Place

Front Campus Field



On a clear night, when the sky is filled with stars, the front campus field is a quiet spot in the centre of a hectic city. I found these nights very romantic, and I managed to line up at least one soulful kiss with every girlfriend I had (this was relatively easy – there weren't that many) in the centre of the field.

I didn't explain this to my wife (who didn't attend U of T) when, during a trip to Toronto, I made sure we claimed the spot for us alone.

Brendan Hemens (BA 1995 St. Mike's)



>>> Osbaldeston's fascination with this shadow city began when he was a reporter for *The Mike*, during his undergraduate studies in history and English. In the student newspaper's cluttered office, he found a 1929 fundraising pamphlet that called for a vast new complex for St. Mike's extending from Queen's Park Crescent to Bay Street. “Obviously,” he says, “it didn't get built.” But the discovery ignited something in him, and Osbaldeston, 42, began collecting other examples.

Unbuilt Toronto includes categories such as transportation, government and religious buildings, towers and master plans. The collection includes everything from John Howard's Walks and Garden's trust, unveiled in the 1850s, to Buckminster Fuller's futuristic waterfront pyramids and the losing bids for the Royal Ontario Museum. Selections are featured in an exhibition at the ROM until January 11.

Osbaldeston's book also focuses on the legacies of the 1911

and 1929 civic plans for the downtown, and the long-running debates over the fate of iconic buildings such as Union Station and E.J. Lennox's brooding old City Hall. He reminds us that in the early 20th century planners wanted a new civic square, next to Lennox's City Hall, to be at the northern terminus of a grand boulevard beginning at Union Station. “You realize Union Station was built where it was in anticipation of this square,” says Osbaldeston. But that road – Federal Avenue – was never built as council whittled away the costly parts of those early plans.

Unbuilt Toronto isn't an exercise in uncritical nostalgia. Osbaldeston's examples include monstrosities such as Metro Centre, a dense collection of highrises dreamed up for the railway lands, as well as the pre-Eb Zeidler vision for the Eaton Centre – both of which were defeated by public opposition. As he says, “It seems like with half of these plans we dodged the bullet.” – *John Lorinc*



Jolene (Gillian Hutchinson) vents her frustrations to The Narrator (Dan Speerin) about finding employment after graduation in an episode of *Twixters*

My Generation *Twixters* takes on 20-something stereotypes

VEERING BETWEEN BITING SATIRE and grim realism, *Twixters* is a comedy series with an edge. Produced by two U of T cinema studies grads, the show mocks the mainstream media's portrayal of today's young adults.

"We're a show about 20-somethings actually written by 20-somethings," says Aravinth Vince Kesavamoorthy (BA 2003 UC), co-producer with Alan So (BA 2003 Innis). Each of the six characters embodies a generational stereotype, which the writers systematically ridicule. There's Neil, for example, who works nights at the grocery store in his hometown while he waits to win the lottery, and Ashley, who aspires to be famous for nothing.

A 2005 *Time* magazine article coined the term "twixters" to

describe the cohort also known as millennials or generation Y: young people caught "betwixt and between" adolescence and adulthood. The article's message, says Kesavamoorthy, is the same one delivered by many TV shows – that 21st-century 20-somethings lead self-indulgent, irresponsible lives. And the people behind *Twixters* say that's definitely not true.

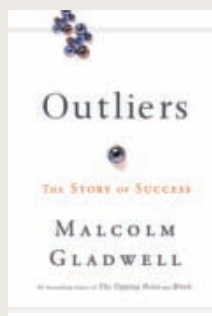
"We felt that there were a lot of opinions on our generation from previous generations, but no platform for us for rebuttal," says Kesavamoorthy, 29. Along with the show's creators, Dan Speerin and Wes McClintock, and a group of volunteer actors, they shot six five-minute episodes on a shoestring in summer 2007. With fluid camera movements, an all-knowing narrator and a pseudo-documentary style, *Twixters*

is like *Arrested Development* on a budget.

The show aired on specialty channel Bite TV in Canada between November 2007 and September 2008. *Twixters* also has a strong online presence on sites such as YouTube, Facebook and MySpace (start at www.twixterstv.com).

Kesavamoorthy and So are taking a break from making new episodes to pursue opportunities that have sprung from the show. This fall they produced *The What Is: Election 2008*, a panel discussion on federal election issues affecting 20-somethings. It aired on ichannel, Canada's public and social affairs issues station. They are now at work on the next three *The What Is* episodes, in which millennials debate topics of the day. As for the fate of *Twixters*, they are pitching the show to major networks. "We just wanted to start an interesting and intelligent debate between the generations, but now that it's gotten to this point we feel a responsibility to do more," says Kesavamoorthy. "This conversation needs to happen on a greater scale." – *Megan Easton*

TOP PHOTO: VINCE KESAVAMORTHY; BOTTOM PHOTO: COURTESY OF LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY



Outliers: The Story of Success Malcolm Gladwell

Did he succeed solely because of his brilliance? Consider: as an eighth grader in private school, Gates had access to a state-of-the-art computer with a time-sharing terminal – almost unheard of for an adolescent in 1968 – which allowed him to master programming.

In *Outliers: The Story of Success* (Little, Brown and Company) Malcolm Gladwell (BA

In 1975, Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard University, created Microsoft and eventually became one of the world's richest men.

1984 Trinity) looks beyond individual traits of the wildly successful, and hones in on the importance of cultural legacies, parentage and serendipitous advantages. He explains why a surfeit of Canadian hockey stars are born near the start of the year; how Robert Oppenheimer became the Manhattan Project's scientific director, despite trying to kill his university tutor; and why the Beatles became a great band. Gladwell's theories leave the reader with a sense of disconcertment – it's an ego-shattering notion, after all, to admit success requires being in the right place, at the right time.

Party like a university student.

[Who wears orthotics and falls asleep at 10 pm.]

If you graduated from U of T in a year ending in 4 or 9, there's no better time to go back to school. This spring's alumni reunion is your chance to have fun on campus without all the homework.

From lectures to parties, you've got five days of activities to choose from. But here's the best part – catching up with old friends and meeting people doing interesting things. None of whom will expect you to pull an all-nighter.

Save the Dates for Spring Reunion 2009

Wednesday, May 27

LGBTQ Pride Kick-off, 6-9 pm

Thursday, May 28

SHAKER (for young alumni), 6-9 pm
25th Anniversary Event, 7-9 pm

Friday, May 29

Chancellor's Circle
Medal Ceremony, 10 am
50th Anniversary Luncheon,
12:30-2:30 pm

Saturday, May 30

Stress-Free Degree lectures, 10 am-1 pm
Campus Tours, 11 am-1 pm
Five-dollar lunch, 11:30 am-1:30 pm
Spring Reunion Garden Party, 2-4 pm

Sunday, May 31

U of T Black Alumni
Association BBQ, 1-4 pm

Spring Reunion 2009. *Go back to school. For the weekend.*

To find out more about all the events, including college or faculty events, visit:

www.alumni.utoronto.ca/springreunion

Questions? Call 416-978-5881

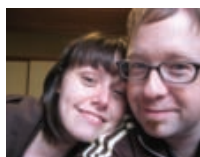


UNIVERSITY OF
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The Two of Us

Chris McGarvey and Laurie Stewart



CHRIS MCGARVEY (BA 2007 WOODSWORTH) and Laurie Stewart (BA 2007 Victoria) got engaged shortly after they graduated last year and then travelled to Japan to teach English. In September, they moved to

Leeds, England, where Laurie is pursuing a master's degree in international communications. They plan to be married in 2010.

Chris I didn't see Laurie often while we were attending U of T, but in September of fourth year I ran into her at the Dance Cave on Bloor Street. At the end of the night, after they turned off the music and turned on the lights, we hugged tight and promised to e-mail each other, yelling out "I'm Chris dot McGarvey at U Toronto dot CA!" and "I'm Laurie dot Stewart at U Toronto dot CA!"

So began an e-mail correspondence that turned into an awkward first date over a plate of French fries. She was a left-wing anthropology student and I was a right-wing political science student. She referenced Edward Said; I referenced Robert Kaplan. We'd butt heads and then make out. I sat in on her lectures. She sat in on mine. I like to think that we pulled each other closer to the centre.



A chance meeting at the Dance Cave at Lee's Palace led Chris McGarvey and Laurie Stewart to romance and political bickering

Laurie I remember calling Chris once in the early days of our relationship to talk about how a political science course I was taking (his field, not mine) was really challenging. He was on the train heading to the university from his job in Pickering. Chris didn't tell me until the end of our 20-minute conversation that he had intended to cram for the psych test he was travelling to! I loved how excited he would get about philosophical thinkers and world issues, though to this day he's shy about the nerdy side that U of T brought out in him. Even his best friends don't know that he reads *Foreign Affairs* and downloads lectures from the Internet.



Seamstress to the Kings When Eleanor von Boetticher strode out of Convocation Hall

with a political science degree tucked under her arm, who would have guessed she'd become famous for her Elvis costumes? Back in 1990, the Inns grad wasn't big on the King, but she did love to sew. After earning a costume studies certificate, her measuring-tape skills cinched her contracts with the National Ballet and, later, the *X-Men 3* and *Catwoman* films.

After an Elvis tribute artist asked her to create an outfit, von Boetticher's business began to shake, rattle and roll with replica requests. Her top-seller is the Aloha jumpsuit (\$1,750), which has an American eagle emblazoned in studs on the chest and back. She double stitches the seams so they won't blow out when Elvis tribute artists perform his famous pelvis swivel.

"The term 'Elvis impersonator' isn't liked," she says. "These artists don't want to be Elvis, they want to keep his memory alive."

To view von Boetticher's portfolio, visit www.proelvisjumpsuits.com. — Susan Pedwell

60 Seconds With

Jessi Cruickshank



ON MTV'S *THE HILLS AFTER SHOW*, host Jessi Cruickshank delivers a waggish critique of the L.A.-based reality series. Before her ascent to MTV, Cruickshank (BA 2004 Innis) studied drama and English at U of T. She dishes to writer Lisa Rundle on *The Hills*, her thespian dreams and how the Backstreet Boys played games with her heart.

An alien comes to Earth and you have to explain *The Hills*. What do you say? Part of me wants to say: "Alien, have you heard of *Seinfeld*?"

Because it's another show about nothing. It just follows this girl Lauren who's moved to California to get into fashion. Rich girls. Living in L.A. Boys. Jobs. Drama ensues.

It's meant to be a reality show. And on your show you dissect each episode. Is this what you thought you would be doing with your degree? No! Absolutely not. I was aiming for "great legendary theatre actress." I certainly didn't anticipate when I was studying the works of Shaw that I'd end up talking about *The Hills* for a living.

And yet, a background in drama seems fitting. It's true! I use my training every day.

Do you prefer high-art drama or cat-fight drama? Shakespeare, Albee, *The Hills* ... they all resonate with people. I don't know what that says about us as a culture. Something went askew there.

What does it take to be a great MTV host? I'm still trying to figure that one out. I just try to stay as true to myself as possible. I never want to be that "phoney-reading-a-teleprompter" girl.... But I've put my foot in my mouth so many times, it's ridiculous.

You realize I'm now hoping you'll do it again here. Don't worry, I'm probably saying things I shouldn't be already.

Oh good. Thanks. Do you still get nervous interviewing stars? I recently interviewed the Backstreet Boys. They were my childhood heroes...

Now that's embarrassing. See! This is something I want to admit, though, because I'm sure there are others out there who had a similar love of the BSB or equally embarrassing pop-culture icons. Before the interview I dug up all my creepy BSB paraphernalia - including a Tupperware container I'd Mod-Podged with magazine photos of the boys and then, disturbingly, pasted my own face over other girls' faces in the pictures. Even though at this point in my life I see it as a bit of a joke, I was still so nervous to meet them. I was sweating profusely.

Sitting Pretty While working on master of architecture degrees at U of T, Patrick Turner (MArch 2004) and Andrea Pearson (MArch 2003) hatched an idea for their own design firm. In 2007, they created the much-lauded architectural and product design studio Thout, and were later joined by third co-owner Thomas Hirschmann.

HoleyStump (left) is a contemporary update on a rustic form of seating. The drilled holes in the white cedar log remove physical and visual weight, and are the perfect containers for beer bottles. Another element that makes it lighter: Thout, based in downtown Toronto, is currently offering a 15 per cent discount on HoleyStump (and BabyStump, not shown) to U of T faculty, students and alumni. The designers say it looks like a giant worm made HoleyStump's holes. As cedar tends to show worm tracks along its surface, it's an artfully rustic detail. Visit www.thout.ca.



Milestones



Norman Levine (BA 1955 UC, DDS 1960, DipPerio 1962, MScD 1967) was recently named to the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honour. Levine, a dean emeritus of the Faculty of Dentistry, was named a member for his contributions to pediatric dentistry and dentistry for people with disabilities.

Horror king **Rodrigo Gudiño's** (BA 1996 VIC) latest flick, *The Facts in the Case of Mister Hollow*, has been successfully terrifying audiences worldwide. It was awarded Best Animated Short at both Montreal's FanTasia Film Festival and Spain's Sitges International Film Festival, and Best Short at the Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival in Korea. The film, which recently aired on Bravo, centres on a photo from the '30s that reveals a tale of murder, kidnapping and sacrifice.

Peter Ashward Sealy (MA 2003 OISE, PhD 2008) received a Newcomer Champion Award from the Government of Ontario for his community service. For 30 years Sealy has worked with newcomers to Canada, promoting cultural understanding, diversity and successful integration and settlement.

Ken Murray (BA 1993 VIC) is the winner of the inaugural Marina Nemat Award, given to the most promising Creative Writing Certificate honours student at the School of Continuing Studies. Murray received the \$1,000 award for his final project, an excerpt from his novel *The Unbecoming*. The award honours writer Marina Nemat, a SCS Certificate graduate whose final project became the bestselling memoir *Prisoner of Tehran*.



First Person

Crossed Wires Performer

Mark Rowswell gets a lesson in the pitfalls of cross-cultural communication

FOR YEARS NOW I'VE HOSTED A PROGRAM on CCTV International, the English-language service of China's state television broadcaster. Designed as a 15-minute Chinese language lesson for foreigners, the program has a healthy following. I'm just not sure it's always for the right reasons.

The latest series, *Sports Chinese*, was launched during the lead-up to the Beijing Olympics. The intention was to help prepare foreign visitors by teaching sports-related vocabulary in Chinese. Deputy Director Wang is in charge. He speaks fairly good English, but I don't think he really understands our target audience. We're almost a week into production before he shows up on set, and he doesn't like what he sees. "This program is for foreigners, so you have to start from the basics," he says. "Like, explaining Chinese doesn't have an alphabet. Chinese characters are square-shaped ideograms. And there are different tones."

"But," I explain, "these dialogues were written at an advanced level. By definition, our target audience must be people who have studied Chinese for some time and know something about China already. We shouldn't underestimate them."

Wang shakes his head in disgust. He's lived abroad. He knows how ignorant foreigners are. "You can't assume viewers

are like you, having lived in China so long."

"You can't ask me to teach such advanced material if I have to start by teaching basics like the four tones," I exclaim.

"I don't think it's so advanced," says Wang. "Look at Lesson 1: 'Hello. My name is Mike. I am an American.'"

I counter with a different example that shows, if anything, the script is overcomplicated: "Look at this sentence from Lesson 19: 'Diving positions can be classified as straight, pike, tuck and free (during somersaults and rotations) respectively.'"

My co-workers are all looking at their feet and shuffling uncomfortably. Confucius preached the value of knowing your place in society, and publicly disagreeing with authority figures is not encouraged in Chinese culture.

I speak out because, as the only non-Chinese production member, I am the only one who knows what it's like to learn Chinese as a second language.

Step by step, the program moves further from its original intent. The main character, Mike, is an American sports reporter. However, he sounds more like a Chinese university student, always treating his teacher with great deference and talking about pulling an all-nighter to finish his latest article. (The scriptwriter is, in fact, a Chinese university student.) Someone in post-production decides to add English subtitles on the dialogues rather than romanized Chinese phonetics – fine for TV drama but not for a Chinese language lesson. As onscreen host, my work largely becomes damage control. I do what I can to help viewers survive the 15-minute lesson and take something useful from it.

The unacknowledged truth is the vast majority of our viewers are, in fact, Chinese students learning English. They don't need to learn the dialogues; they just want to watch how I explain them in English. Across China I meet many people who tell me they enjoy my English teaching program, seemingly unaware that the program is called *Sports Chinese*.

My work is almost exclusively aimed at a Chinese audience. So, in a backwards way, this program has largely ended up with that same viewership. That's not bad for me, but it does highlight a common problem in cross-cultural communication. Despite best efforts, each side of the cultural divide ends up spending more time talking to themselves.

Mark Rowswell (BA, Chinese Studies, 1988 UC) is known as "Dashan" by hundreds of millions of television viewers in China for his 20-year career as a performer and TV host.

Family Tree

Suited for Success

Hong Kong clothing magnate Kenneth Lo and his family have tailored a lifelong relationship with U of T

IT WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST DECISIONS of his life. In 1978, almost two decades before the British returned Hong Kong to Chinese rule, Kenneth Lo uprooted his family and brought them to Toronto in search of a stable future. “A lot of people at that time were afraid of Red China,” he says. “Confidence was not high.”

Lo has since moved back to Hong Kong, where he works with his three sons – Andrew (BA 1988 UC), Nick (BASc 1990) and Howard (BCom 2001 TRIN) – at The Crystal Group, the multinational clothing company he founded with his wife, Yvonne, almost 40 years ago. (Daughter Amy [BCom 1989 UC] also works for The Crystal Group, but she and her family live in Toronto.) During a visit to Toronto last summer, Lo said he’s still very fond of the city, and particularly appreciates its diversity. “Canada is very multicultural. People here have equal rights and they respect each other,” he says.

Lo’s four children – and Amy’s husband, Paul Mang (BASc 1985), and Nick’s wife, Elaine (BCom 1989 VIC) – all attended U of T, so it comes as no surprise that the 67-year-old entrepreneur maintains close ties with the university. Lo counts Robert Prichard as a friend – the former U of T president attended Amy’s wedding. He has also donated funds to student bursaries and the Institute for Child Study, where Amy’s daughters attend school.



Above, back row from left: Amy Lo, Paul Mang, Yvonne Lo, Kenneth Lo, Nick Lo, Elaine Lo. Front: Amy’s daughters. Right: Howard Lo (left) and Andrew Lo



Lo supports the university because he is a strong believer in the transformative power of education. “It’s where students learn how to think,” he says. Besides giving to U of T and Upper Canada College, Lo also finances education projects to help the poor in China and Hong Kong. Noting that The Crystal Group employs more than 30,000 people, Lo says he considers a good education crucial to understanding people and therefore a key qualification for succeeding in business. “The way you are successful is to bring people together for the same goal. Management and leadership are important.”

He also sees an important role for the company in fighting climate change and using the Earth’s resources responsibly. “We try to involve the whole company in environmental protection,” he says. – *Scott Anderson*

PHOTO: DANIEL EHRENWORTH

Arbor Awards



As the saying goes, silent gratitude isn’t much use to anyone. In September U of T presented Arbor Awards to 87 volunteers, making its gratitude clear. Among the recipients were **Marie Cuthbert** (BA 1950 UC). In the early 1990s, she clipped job ads so that graduating students could read through them at the Koffler Student Centre and find their big break. Cuth-

bert continues to volunteer with the Senior Alumni Association. Doctoral candidate **Deryk Beal** (MHSc 2000), president of the Speech-Language Pathology Alumni Association, has organized events with the alumni executive such as a welcome breakfast for master’s students. **Ron Crawford** (BCom 1962 VIC) chaired the Varsity Blues Football Summit in 2007 to raise funds for a team notorious for



losing. (The team broke its winless streak this fall.) **Rebecca Plumtree** (BA 1990 UTSC) has contributed to the Local Animal Care Committee at U of T Scarborough for 13 years. The Arbor Awards ceremony takes place each fall at the president’s residence on Highland Avenue. – *Susan Pedwell*



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1948

Chariots of Godiva Engineering students use smarts and sabotage in a grand old race

Engineers have a reputation for rowdiness, and their traditions reflect their penchant for both working and playing hard. Ye Grande Olde Chariot Race sees rival teams of engineers hit campus with one-person chariots every January. Crews drag and push their creations once around King's College Circle, while also trying to sabotage their classmates' efforts – smashing and crashing competing chariots. The race takes place during Godiva Week, a second round of frosh celebrations that engineers observe in the new year. In the picture above, taken in 1948, one team poses with unofficial cheerleaders; the chariot is the

drum-like contraption occupied by the gentleman on the right. In that year's Engineering Society yearbook, the race's casualties were listed as “four wounded, one missing in action.”

The chariot tradition began indoors, almost a century ago: on Engineering Society election nights, students pulled around anyone who was game on chamber pots threaded with tow rope. In 1947, the race was reinvented as a campus-wide event. However, the popular competition became so unwieldy that in 1953 it was restricted to its rightful owners: the engineers.
– Sarah Treleaven

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Alumni Circle

U of T's New Online Community

 Last spring, U of T launched an interactive online community that lets alumni from all over the world network with people from their student days.

Join Alumni Circle and create a profile, post messages, share photos or write a blog. Reconnect with old classmates by searching the “Class Notes” section by college, faculty and graduation year. Members are also signing up for U of T events where people network the old-fashioned way.

To learn more and join the community, visit www.alumni.utoronto.ca. While you are there, sign up for a free alumni Gmail account – full-service e-mail with an address that reads “your.name@alumni.utoronto.ca”. It tells friends and colleagues that you’re proud to be a University of Toronto graduate.

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